



## **BAAL AGM**

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2025, 5:30-6:30 pm**

**BAAL Annual General Meeting**

**Debating Chamber, The University of Glasgow ([hybrid link](#))**

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## Chair's Report

In my first year as chair of BAAL, I have focused on revisiting the association's strategic priorities (first established in 2021-2022 by the previous chair, Professor Zhu Hua) from our new vantage point in 2024/2025 where, although all remain relevant, some emerge with greater urgency. These are:

- **supporting the membership:** originally conceptualised as offering support following the Covid pandemic and lockdown restrictions, members' needs have broadened as the decade has progressed, bringing with it a harsher economic and political environment with cuts to funding, course closures, and job losses. The 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BAAL survey identified mentoring and networking as two areas in which BAAL could support members.
- **equality, diversity and inclusion:** this continues to be a growing area of concern, both for the EC and for members, as indicated by the BAAL survey and recent AGM discussions. It is bound up with the priority above, as BAAL seeks to ensure it remains an inclusive association which welcomes and is relevant to a broadening range of people with an interest in applied linguistics.
- **engaging with and influencing the UK government and HE policies:** the role for BAAL in advocating for applied linguistics as a discipline also came through strongly in the BAAL survey and is increasingly necessary in the current climate. One effective way to do this must be through strengthening our links with other UK learned societies and umbrella associations.

Two other strategic priorities – **multilingual representation** and **developing an international outlook** – continue to be important and have guided activities this academic year. A further priority has been to ensure the **visibility of the Executive Committee (EC) amongst the membership**, to enhance transparency and understanding of all we do, and increase the extent to which BAAL is perceived as relevant by our members.

## Supporting the membership

The BAAL EC have endeavoured this year to reach out to the membership and make more visible our members and our behind-the-scenes activity. This has involved:

- 'Statement from the new BAAL chair' shared with members on BAALmail (28<sup>th</sup> October), in order to introduce myself and lay out our strategic priorities for the year. The statement can be found [here](#) on the BAAL website.

- ‘Meet the BAAL EC’ online event organised and chaired by our Membership Secretary Rachel Wicaksono on 7<sup>th</sup> February. From our perspective, this was an enjoyable and very productive meeting with lots of feedback and questions elicited.
- ‘BAAL statement in support of SHAPE subjects’ posted on the website (<https://www.baal.org.uk/british-association-for-applied-linguistics/baals-statement-of-support-for-shape-subjects/>) and shared on BAALmail (16<sup>th</sup> July). The purpose of this statement is not only to make clear our solidarity with BAAL members and other associations in an exceedingly difficult climate, but to use the statement to underpin and guide future activities and initiatives.
- ‘End-of-year’ round-up email to BAALmail on Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> July, in order to let members know about initiatives and updates that may not warrant their own email. The email included details of our new social media handles on [LinkedIn](#) and [BlueSky](#), with thanks to our Media Coordinator Mel Evans for setting these up.
- The EC has also taken and shared photos of our EC meetings and contributed to the BAAL newsletter.

We hope that many of the above initiatives can continue in subsequent years.

Finally, we are aware that some members have concerns over the current publishing model and the availability of open access options, a central plank of the our 2023 Annual Conference at the University of York (‘Opening up Applied Linguistics’). Our Publications Officer Sal Consoli is currently working to establish a space for a conversation bringing both publishers and authors together to listen to each other and find ways forward which are potentially mutually beneficial. Please watch this space in the new academic year.

## **Equality, diversity and inclusion**

At our 2024 Annual Conference at the University of Essex, we hosted the first of two EDI leadership workshops funded by the [AcSS & ESRC EDI funding scheme](#), which allocates funding to learned societies to support EDI. The second workshop was run by the UK Association for Language Teaching and Assessment ([UKALTA](#)), organised as part of their conference at the University of Bedfordshire on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> November. Both workshops were great successes, with positive feedback from participants who appreciated the space to discuss issues around EDI. We are now working with UKALTA on various follow-up activities, which include the first EDI track at the 2025 Annual Conference in Glasgow (organised and chaired by Zhu Hua and Ordinary Member Peter Browning).

I have attended a number of Academy of Social Science (AcSS) sessions reporting on parallel EDI initiatives funded by the scheme:

- Royal Economic Society's session on 22<sup>nd</sup> January in which they reported on their Consciously Inclusive Mentoring scheme. Their learnings included the importance of initial input from professional EDI consultants, not least in adding credibility, and the importance of a subject-specific perspective.
- AcSS EDI working group on 3<sup>rd</sup> February, at which the Royal Society of Biology spoke about their efforts to diversify their trustee board with a Support, Experience, Acknowledge, Train ([SEAT](#)) scheme which gives young society members a non-voting 'seat' at the board, and the opportunity to shadow board members and be partnered with a 'board buddy'.
- Royal Statistical Society's session on 26<sup>th</sup> March on their Future Leaders scheme, which involved recruiting 15 'future leaders' through a call and involving them in discussions.
- Three sessions led by the Royal Statistical Society on improving member data (13<sup>th</sup> January, 7<sup>th</sup> April and 28<sup>th</sup> August). They elicited good practice from across learned societies and subject associations and disseminated their findings this summer.

## **Engaging with and influencing the UK government and HE policies**

This strategic priority involves a number of strands, including liaising with other associations.

### **Direct engagement with current environment of cuts and closures**

On behalf of BAAL, I have written three letters of support for colleagues facing redundancies and/or course closures, and was able to provide some advice around universities' use of data. In at least one case, I'm pleased to say that a decision was reversed. Please do get in touch if you could benefit from BAAL's support.

I have also participated in events ran by partner associations. I attended an [AMLUK](#) (Alliance of Modern Languages, Area Studies and Linguistics Subject Associations UK) meeting on 7<sup>th</sup> February, at which representatives from a university facing cuts to Modern Languages presented on the situation and elicited advice; and I attended an Arts and Humanities Alliance ([AHA](#)) meeting on Friday 13 June, on using data to support advocacy work.

### **Curriculum and Assessment Review**

Thanks again to BAAL members who contributed to evidence submitted to the UK government's [Curriculum and Assessment Review](#) by the Committee for Linguistics in Education ([CLiE](#)) last November. In collaboration with the Coalition of Languages in Education (CLE), CLiE then led on preparing a digest of 19 language-related submissions, which can be accessed here along with the 19 submissions:

<https://clie.org.uk/responses/>. The Department for Education (DfE) then issued an [interim](#)

[report](#) in March 2025, to which CLE has responded:  
<https://coalitionforlanguageeducationuk.com/outputs/>. A final response is expected from DfE in the autumn. If you wish to follow up on any of this, please contact me, or either CLE or CLiE at the contact details given on the websites above.

## **REF 2029**

There is concern across the sector regarding the reduced role of subject associations like BAAL in REF2029 (i.e. that we have not been directly involved in nominating panel members). The main and sub-panel recruitment call went out in December for sub-panel chair and deputy chair, subpanel member and four main panel roles: international expert, PCE expert, user expert, and interdisciplinary expert. I shared the call on BAALmail, including an offer to give feedback on applications, and gave feedback to BAAL members who requested it. I also attended an AMLUK meeting on REF Panel for Modern Languages on 10<sup>th</sup> March (as also advertised to BAAL members). The deadlines were in February and April.

In early June the BAAL Secretary Alex Ho-Cheong Leung and I were consulted by the D26 Languages and Linguistics subpanel chair on the appointment of members, and the applied linguistics topics to be covered by the panel. The panel composition is to be announced in late August. This involvement of BAAL is very welcome and promising, not least given the aforementioned concerns.

## **Updates from partner associations**

### **International Association of Applied Linguistics (AILA)**

BAAL is keen to maintain relations with AILA as we develop our international outlook, and with that in mind Alex and I met in October with the [new AILA executive board](#) Kyria Finardi (President), Markus Beiswanger (Treasurer), Glenda El Gamal (Secretary-General), Melanie van den Hoven (Secretary) and Azirah Hashim (Past President) to discuss possible collaborations.

We are delighted to announce that AILA will be holding their Executive Board/International Committee (EB/IC) meeting in Glasgow before the conference. This is an exciting opportunity for us to strengthen ties, involve our international partners in our conference, and boost the international visibility of our conference. Thanks very much to Piotr Wegerowski and the Glasgow LOC for facilitating this. Please look out for AILA EB members and the representatives of our partner affiliates at the conference!

I also participated in this year's AILA-Europe meeting, where we voted for new coordinator Anta Kursiša (Gesellschaft für Angewandte Linguistik, GAL, Germany) and sat on the [AILA-ReN](#) review committee, which reviewed 17 proposals for new AILA Research Networks (ReNs), of which we approved 16; while Alex sits on the AILA Justice, Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (JEDI) Committee. Please see Alex's BAAL Secretary report for details.

### **Academy for Social Sciences (AcSS)**

The Academy of Social Sciences represents academics, learned societies and practitioners in the Social Sciences and promotes Social Science in the UK for the public benefit. The BAAL Chair receives regular updates from AcSS and attends a meeting with representatives from their affiliated learned societies (of which BAAL is one) three times a year. AcSS also hold regular webinars and other sessions, such as those with an EDI-focus listed above.

### **British Academy**

The main update regarding the important work of the British Academy is the SHAPE conference in London on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, which I attended on behalf of BAAL. As well as a workshop and plenary talks, I attended useful sessions on:

- 'What's on the Westminster agenda?' – the answer is not HE, and speakers emphasised the need for HE advocates to show (rather than tell) how they were meeting government priorities around, for example, growth, health, immigration and defence. They stressed the need for academic contributions to informing big political theories, and gave the introduction of phonics into schools as an example of a successful academic intervention.
- Strategies for successful subject advocacy (languages) – the need for arguments to be grounded in data, but also with awareness of audience and how languages fit into the wider picture. This also requires working together and community-building, and long-term strategies as well as short-term reactions to redundancies.

A number of valuable initiatives spearheaded by the British Academy have come to fruition and may be of interest to BAAL members:

- [BA Early Career Researcher Network](#) (a researcher-led network for UK-based ECRs in the humanities and social sciences)
- [The Languages Gateway](#) (a collaborative web-based resource for sharing existing messages, information, and resources, and stimulating links between different parts of the language education and skills community)
- [BA SHAPE Observatory](#) (a data platform providing insight into the state of the art of SHAPE subjects in the UK)

## **Arts and Humanities Alliance (AHA)**

The Arts and Humanities Alliance (AHA) is a pro-active group of learned societies with a focus on advocacy, which has been very active in responding to cuts and closures, and media coverage around this. I attended three meetings in September, December and June, and am a member of their WhatsApp group.

## **University Council for General and Applied Linguistics (UCGAL)**

The outgoing chair, Lesley Jeffries had a slot in our BAAL EC meeting in May where she shared her reflections on the current state of play for the discipline and her proposed action plan. Professor Billy Clark (Northumbria University) has since taken over as Chair, and we hope to work with him going forward to define and develop the role of UCGAL in the wider HE sector.

## **Committee for Language in Education (CLiE)**

BAAL is a parent association of [CLiE](#), along with the Linguistics Association of Great Britain (LAGB). Given the current climate and planned school curriculum changes, our support of CLiE has never seemed more urgent. Over the last year, I have attended the three CLiE meetings, including one in person in London in June. Teacher Rebecca Mitchell joined the meeting to talk about National Linguistics Day, 26<sup>th</sup> November, which she kickstarted last year and which may be something for BAAL to engage with this year – look out for her at this year's conference where she will be participating in the CLiE forum.

With the latest BAAL representative on the CLiE committee, Suganthi John, I have been working on the following two initiatives:

***National Applied Linguistics School Competition:*** We are currently setting up a working group to explore the possibility of creating and running a competition for schools which would sit alongside the UKLO. The aim is to raise the profile of applied linguistics, drive interest among school students for the subject, and increase our contact with schools. Planning will be carried out in 2025-2026, with a view to launching the competition by January 2027.

***Leadership in Applied Linguistics programme:*** The aim of this is to develop long-term measures for securing the future of the discipline in the face of a precarious economic-political situation, including university cuts targeting humanities and social science subjects. It is therefore an initiative designed to run alongside the immediate work being done by BAAL and others to protest planned course closures and redundancies. It is aimed at mid-career applied linguists who have recently taken up, or are looking to move into, a range of

leadership positions. Our particular interest is in supporting their leadership activities and equipping them with the tools needed to advocate for applied linguistics and related disciplines within these roles. It is expected to run March-June 2026.

BAAL are also proud sponsors of the UK Linguistics Olympiad ([UKLO](#)), organised under CLiE's auspices. I attended the UKLO reception hosted by corporate sponsor Convex in London on 8<sup>th</sup> November. The event was co-run by Dick Hudson, CLiE's webmaster and chair of UKLO. Dick Hudson produced a report which was published in the BAAL Spring 2025 newsletter.

### **Coalition for Language Education**

As well as our collaboration around the Curriculum and Assessment Review, I attended a day event organised by the [Coalition for Language Education](#) in Kings College, London, on 29<sup>th</sup> March. The event reflected on innovative local projects/programmes across the school sector and considered the multi-level strategies and actions needed to embed and sustain them in UK language education more widely. It was well attended (with representatives from CLiE and UKALTA, among many others) and offered a useful opportunity to bring those interested in language education together.

**Caroline Tagg, August 2025**

### **Secretary's Report**

It is my pleasure to be writing this report as the Secretary. Over the past twelve months I have enjoyed working with the EC and the wider BAAL membership. I have handled various routine secretarial tasks/ queries to BAAL (as per the job description). I have also supported other EC members and responded to various requests for help from BAAL membership in conjunction with our Chair:

- Welcomed new EC members and organised regular BAAL EC meetings
- Checked the minutes and action points from each BAAL EC meeting
- Sent regular updates on our activities to the AcSS for their monthly eBulletins
- Reviewed books for the annual BAAL book prize and supported the finalisation of the short list
- Coordinated the annual AGM meeting (and notified the membership of this)
- Requested that all members of the EC update their terms of reference in preparation for the upcoming elections (this is required on an annual basis)
- Advertised EC vacancies and solicited nominations – written statements to be shared in advance and elections to be held at the BAAL AGM
- Helped to drive the EC's development of equality, diversity and inclusion initiatives



- Acted as a point of contact for a range of EC-related questions and queries raised by EC members and general BAAL membership
- Attended and contributed to the AILA JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) committee meetings
- Supported the Chair in making various other decisions and carrying out actions

BAAL Annual General Meeting 2025: There are six posts coming up for election. These include four officer posts and two ordinary members as below:

- Meetings Secretary
- Membership Secretary
- Seminars Coordinator
- Website Editor
- Ordinary member x 2

All of the posts have been publicised to the BAAL membership with expressions of interest being sought (see <https://www.baal.org.uk/documents/> for role descriptions). The election will be held at the BAAL AGM. Those officers who have only served one term are permitted to be elected to a second term, if desired (see <https://www.baal.org.uk/committee/> for information on the current committee).

Thank you: I would like to end my first AGM report by thanking Caroline Tagg, our chair, who was the previous secretary for her mentorship and leadership. I would like to thank all the officers and ordinary members for the hard work and commitment to BAAL during their time on the EC, as well as to Katie Worman and colleagues at Mosaic for their administrative support. I also like to thank the BAAL membership for your continuous engagement with and support for BAAL. I look forward to continue interacting with everyone at the conference and beyond.

**Alex Ho-Cheong Leung, August 2025**

## Treasurer's Report

### BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS

#### INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT

##### YEAR ENDED 31 MAY 2025

	2025	2024
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
Membership Subscription	49,696	51,247
Bank interest	1,182	894
Book Prize Entries	1,200	800
Annual Conference Income	-	34,140
Donations - funding for EDI Workshops	6,500	-
Net Income - Special Interest Groups	32	683
Seminars	2,000	-
	<b>60,610</b>	<b>87,764</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Grants to SIGs	400	320
Book / Poster/visual rep./ prizes	-	50
Linguistics Olympiad	2,000	4,000
BAAL Scholarship	-	3,695
Applying Linguistic Fund	840	6,001
Mosaic Events - Fees & Expenses	14,061	14,312
Research, Development Workshop	7,341	-
Exec.Committee Meetings & Accom. expenses	3,179	4,694
AILA/UCML/CLIE & OTHERS - Subscriptions	715	8,298
CUP/BAAL/ESOL/Routledge -Seminars	6,930	-
Insurance	717	652
Bank Direct Debit,collect & Service Charges	156	159
Conference expenses	-	644
Postage,Publication & Printing Costs	9	-
Accountant's Fees	1,225	990
Sundry expenses (Allowable)	659	615
	<b>38,232</b>	<b>44,430</b>
<b>SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>22,378</b>	<b>43,334</b>

# BRITISH ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED LINGUISTICS

## BALANCE SHEET

31 MAY 2025

	Note	2025 £	2024 £
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Other debtors		26,519	26,487
Bank deposits		126,731	123,855
Cash at bank		156,740	137,035
		<u>309,990</u>	<u>287,377</u>
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>			
Accrued expenses		<u>1,225</u>	<u>990</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<b>308,765</b>	<b>286,387</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>		<b><u>308,765</u></b>	<b><u>286,387</u></b>
<b>FINANCED BY:</b>			
<b>CAPITAL ACCOUNT</b>			
Balance brought forward		286,387	243,053
Net surplus for the year		<u>22,378</u>	<u>43,334</u>
Balance carried forward		<b><u>308,765</u></b>	<b><u>286,387</u></b>

Bettina Beinhoff, August 2025

## Media Coordinator's Report

Following a discussion at a BAAL Executive Committee meeting, we decided to pause the BAAL X account. Instead, we have set up alternative social media platforms to share information and news relevant to BAAL:

LinkedIn: <https://linkedin.com/company/british-association-for-applied-linguistics-baal>

BlueSky: <https://bsky.app/profile/baal-linguistics.bsky.social>

The information about these new accounts was communicated to members in summer 2025 via BAALMail, and we intend to raise their profile over the next 12 months. These new platforms sit alongside the BAAL website, the newsletter, and the YouTube channel. We continue to use YouTube to post recordings of talks and webinars for members and some open access content, too, with plans for this year's annual conference content to be available shortly!

We would like to grow our community on the social media platforms, and make use of their different affordances, including longer-form content on LinkedIn. We are devising a schedule for content that will align with the main activities of BAAL and the wider academic calendar, to benefit members, SIGs and the Applied Linguistics community.

Members are very welcome to get in touch if they have ideas for content, or would like to raise awareness of an event or conference of interest to the BAAL community.

**Mel Evans, August 2025**

## **Meetings Secretary's Report**

This is my final report after two terms as Meetings Secretary.

### **1. BAAL2025**

Preparations are going well for BAAL2025 at University of Glasgow. Piotr Węgorowski and the local team have been in touch with the executive committee regularly and we are on track for a surplus. The theme is 'Applied linguistics in the face of global challenges and local needs'.

### **2. BAAL2026**

The Aston University team led by Stephen Pihlaja has been working all year to prepare for BAAL2026. Their working theme is 'Applied Linguistics in Transformation'.

The theme is intended to encourage submissions:

- Addressing the challenges and opportunities posed by digital progresses and artificial intelligence
- Focusing on transformation in methods in Applied Linguistics research

- Introducing transformations in paradigms in Applied Linguistics research' and they recently sent a list of suggested plenary speakers to the executive committee.

### **3. BAAL2027**

BAAL2027 will be the 60<sup>th</sup> annual conference so we expect a sense of celebration around it. Victorina Gonzalez-Diaz will lead a team from the University of Liverpool as hosts.

The new meetings secretary will need to launch a call for 2028 and 2029 early in 2026.

**Glenn Hadikin, August 2025**

## **Membership Secretary's Report**

A very warm welcome to all the new members who have joined BAAL over the course of 2024-25 and to all existing colleagues who have renewed their membership!

The membership of BAAL has grown steadily in recent years. Our numbers are usually at their peak in December/January, and in January 2025 we had a total of 1,554 members (our highest number ever), compared to 1,495 in January 2024, 1,521 in 2023, and 1,456 in 2022. We remain indebted to the team at Mosaic for their continued high-quality support of the BAAL Executive Committee and membership.

In July 2025, the date for which our most recent numbers are available, the total number of BAAL members was 1,419. This number is made up of 659 full-rate (£50) members, 469 reduced-rate (£20) members (i.e. members who are students or are unwaged), 8 individuals nominated under a total of 6 Associate memberships, and 226 individuals nominated under a total of 39 Institutional memberships. There are 12 members in our category of 'solidarity' membership, a category that was introduced in 2023.

BAAL is keen to keep expanding its membership base and to further strengthen its voice. So, if you know of a colleague or student who is not yet a member of BAAL, please encourage them to visit the website and sign up at: <https://www.baal.org.uk/join/>. Our online application form and payment system are integrated on one webpage, making it simple for applied linguists from across the globe to join us. All memberships run for a period of 12 months, with a membership term of January to December. Members who are not resident in the UK are very welcome to join BAAL.

If your institution has yet to join BAAL, why not consider an Institutional membership? The annual subscription for Institutional membership of BAAL is £120 and allows for four individuals from the institution to be nominated as full members. Individual membership subscription is priced at £50 per annum (£20 for full-time students or retired/unwaged members), so Institutional membership represents a 40% discount for each nominated institutional member.

When you join BAAL, you get full access to:

- [Special interest Groups](#)
- Seminars in association with Cambridge University Press, with discounted registration
- BAALmail, our membership mailing list
- Special publisher discounts on a range of books and journals, sent via BAALmail
- Our bi-annual BAAL newsletter
- Membership of [AILA](#), the International Association of Applied Linguistics, including a discount for the triennial AILA World Congress
- Opportunities to apply for funding for projects and to host events, such as the BAAL Applying Linguistics Fund and the BAAL/CUP Applied Linguistics Seminar Fund
- A discounted fee for our annual conference (usually held in September)

BAAL is always looking at new ways to support its members, so please feel free to get in touch with our Chair, [chair@baal.org.uk](mailto:chair@baal.org.uk) with your suggestions. Thank you for supporting BAAL and we hope you enjoy your membership.

**Rachel Wicaksono, August 2025**

## **Newsletter Editor's Report**

It was a pleasure to rejoin the BAAL EC this year as BAAL Newsletter Editor, following a previous term as Ordinary Member from 2021-2023. I'm very grateful to the previous Newsletter Editor, Sal Consoli, for his guidance at the beginning of my term.

My first issue as Newsletter Editor – BAAL News Issue 125 – was published in February, featuring nine articles and three book reviews. In preparing this issue, with the support of the EC I re-registered BAAL News with a new ISSN (2976-9493), which formally identifies *BAAL News* as a continuing digital publication. In addition, I made a number of minor updates to the newsletter's design/layout, and upon publication of the issue I made the decision to circulate only the [URL](#) to the issue (as uploaded to the BAAL website), rather than circulate an attached copy of the file. This allows us to better monitor the popularity of BAAL News via the BAAL website stats.

In terms of content, we have introduced a new standing report (*BAAL Executive Committee update*), which gives an opportunity for one or more members of the EC to report on a recent development/initiative/opportunity of relevance to BAAL members. All existing report formats, including *Multilingualism in Focus*, remain available for contribution to each issue.

When I took up this role, I sought to find out more about the extent to which BAAL News is valued by members and whether it is still performing a useful function, compared to other methods of allowing members to disseminate news items. Relevant member survey data (with thanks to Caroline for retrieving this at our May meeting) showed that BAAL News remains a valuable resource – consistently ranking highly among the things that appeal to newly joining members.

BAAL News Issue 126 will be published in late August. I'd like to thank all BAAL members who have contributed to both issues this year, and I look forward to receiving contributions for Issue 127, the call for which will go out in November with a planned publication date of February/March 2026.

**Robbie Love, August 2025**

## **Postgraduate Liaison and Development Officer's Report**

I have continued to update the PG Facebook group. Please continue to post events here or to ask me to do so on your behalf. The group can be found here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/40190066151/>

We held our first online event for postgraduates in April this year. We had a really great turnout and very useful sessions on making the most of an academic conference. The event can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-R-zpVoxJa8>

For the conference, I will be running an workshop on generative AI for postgraduates with Jim McKinley. We hope that this topic will be timely and useful for students.

Preparations are also underway for the Richard Pemberton prize and poster prize.

Please get in touch with me if you have any idea for events. I am keen to run more online events in the coming academic year.

**Tim Hampson, August 2025**

## **Publications Secretary's Report**

It has been an honour to complete my first year as Publications Secretary. I am especially grateful to Alex Ho-Cheong Leung, my predecessor, for his generous support during the transition into this role. Over the past year, my work has focused on two main areas: (1) collaborating with the BAAL Chair and Secretary to facilitate dialogue between publishers and members on Open Access, and (2) overseeing the Book Prize. The following section provides further details on the Book Prize.

This year's book prize received 26 nominations from nine different publishers and nomination bodies. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the publishers for their continued support of the prize, as well as of BAAL's wider activities and initiatives. My gratitude also goes to the EC members and BAAL colleagues who generously contributed to the reviewing process.

The four titles that have been shortlisted are listed below:

Magdalena Kubanyiova and Parinita Shetty. *Listening Without Borders: Creating Spaces for Encountering Difference*. Multilingual Matters

Anna-Elisabeth Holm. *Migration, Adult Language Learning and Multilingualism*. Routledge / Taylor & Francis Group

Robert Blackwood, Stefania Tufi and Will Amos. *The Bloomsbury Handbook of Linguistic Landscape*. Bloomsbury Publishing

Jürgen Jaspers. *Monolingual Policies in Multilingual Schools*. Oxford University Press

The winner and runner-up will be announced during the book prize event at the annual conference, to be held at the University of Glasgow in September 2025. I would like to extend my gratitude to the local organising committee for their kind cooperation in facilitating this event.



## Seminars Coordinator's Report

The 2024-25 academic year has been yet another academically fruitful year in relation to both the seminars and the workshops. The former are jointly sponsored by BAAL and Cambridge University Press, each of which contributes with £2k. The continued investment made by the joint sponsors evidences their commitment to the advancement of Applied Linguistics since the seminars must explore emergent, timely or relevant methods or topics in our field.

In 2024-25, the seminar funding was shared among three successful applications as detailed below, thus providing BAAL members with valuable chances to engage with timely topics in our discipline.

- “AI in Applied Linguistics and TESOL: Researcher and practitioner perspectives”, organized by a team led by Celia Antoniou (University of Strathclyde) on 06 June 2025.
- “(Re-)exploring ethics in Applied Linguistics research”, organized by Alex Ho-Cheong Leung and Nancy Dieu-Ngoc Nguyen (both affiliated with Northumbria University) on 23 June 2025.
- “The future of doctoral writing: Critical dialogues towards a manifesto”, organized by Julia Molinari and Jackie Tuck (both affiliated with the Open University) on 09 July 2025.

The Researcher Development Workshops are funded by BAAL, and they are a benefit for members (i.e., only BAAL members can attend these free-of-charge workshops). The workshops are aimed primarily (but not exclusively) at doctoral students and early-career researchers. There is a total of £3k available for this funding opportunity, and each workshop proponent may bid for a maximum of £1,500. In the 2024-25 academic year, the BAAL Executive Committee has decided to sponsor the workshop proposal detailed below, which will take place later in 2025.

- “Exploring applications of eye tracking methodologies in Applied Linguistics research: Bridging theory and practice”, to be organized by Gergely Kajos (University of Leeds) on 05 November 2025.

We are in the process of confirming the funding for the 2025-26 academic year, and the new calls will be launched as soon as possible. I would very much encourage all BAAL members to consider making an application for these funding opportunities. I am also very happy to discuss any ideas that BAAL members may have for their future seminar/workshop proposals during this year's conference in Glasgow.

This is my second – and last – term as the BAAL Seminars Coordinator. I have thoroughly enjoyed leading on the seminars and workshops on behalf of BAAL in the past six years (i.e., 2019-25), and I have been extremely pleased to see an increase in the overall number of

applications to both funding opportunities. It has been an incredibly rewarding experience to support colleagues in their funding applications and to work alongside successful applicants in the organization of their events. I am very happy to have continued with the success of the seminars as well as to have proposed and implemented a new funding stream for BAAL members – namely, the BAAL Researcher Development Workshops. My journey in this role has been made extremely positive through my interaction with numerous colleagues, and I would very much like to thank them once more:

- past and present BAAL EC members, who have been such a friendly group of people to work with, who have supported my proposal of the Researcher Development Workshops a few years ago, and who have kindly helped to review seminar/workshop funding applications;
- all BAAL members who have invested considerable time and effort in the preparation of excellent funding applications in the past six years;
- the successful seminar and workshop applicants, who have carefully worked in the design and implementation of these events on a voluntary basis; and
- the seminar/workshop attendees, who have participated so enthusiastically in the events and who have contributed to the success of these events.

**Vander Viana, August 2025**

## **SIG Coordinator's Report**

Special Interest Groups (SIGs) continue to make an important contribution to BAAL's activities and identity.

### **New SIGs**

Two new SIGs were established this year, including the Research Involving Children Special Interest Group (RICH) and English-Medium Instruction (EMI) SIGs. The BAAL EC will review these SIGs' development and activities in one year to confirm their full SIG status. On a case-by-case basis, we have tried to allow submissions to be considered at the May/September EC meetings. This practice seems to work well with the proposers, allowing more flexibility in coordinating the working groups to set up the new SIGs. We will continue this practice.

### **SIG activities**

BAAL has 22 SIGs, see below for the full list, covering a wide range of core and contemporary research topics in applied linguistics. Each SIG has around 50-1200 members ( $M=350$ ,  $SD=370$ ). It is free to join a BAAL SIG. According to the BAAL membership survey, SIG is often the first BAAL activity our members join.

See below for the full list of BAAL SIGs:

1. Asian Language Education in Global Contexts SIG
2. Corpus linguistics
3. Health and Science Communication
4. Humans, Machines, Language (HuMaLa)
5. Intercultural communication
6. Language and Education for Social Justice (LESJ)
7. Language and New Media
8. <i>Language and Race (Extended first year from Jan 2025)</i>
9. Language Curriculum
10. Language in Africa
11. Language Policy
12. Language, Gender and Sexuality
13. Language, Learning and Teaching (LLT)
14. Linguistic Ethnography Forum (LEF)
15. Linguistics and Knowledge about Language in Education (LKALE)
16. Multilingualism
17. Literacies (formerly PAWBL)
18. <i>Research Involving Children Special Interest Group (RICH) (first year from March 2025)</i>
19. Research Synthesis in Applied Linguistics
20. Testing, Evaluation and Assessment (TEA)
21. Vocabulary
22. <i>English-Medium Instruction (EMI) (first year from June 2025)</i>

At the point of writing, annual reports have been received from 15 SIGs. Each SIG has held 1-4 EC members during the year. Most SIG had at least one in-person event. A few SIGs were able to secure external grants to cover the in-person cost to make registration free to the event participants or offer a discount fee. A wide range of online (and hybrid) activities, including online lecture series, discussion panels, webinars, online reading group, online symposium, writing retreat and research café, were organised by the SIGs. Some engaged in international collaboration projects. For example, the LC SIG partnered with members of the PRODIGI research group at Universidad Internacional de la Rioja (Spain) to organise RELANZA (Redefining Language Education: SDGs and Innovative Teaching Strategies) (<https://relanza.net/en/home/>). Regarding advocacy work, some SIGs (e.g., ALEG SIG) sent out petitions to support matters relevant to their SIGs. Some SIGs offered awards (e.g. the Judith Baxter Award by the LGaS SIG). Please see the BAAL newsletters and individual SIG websites for more information about these events. Many SIGs reviewed their online presence and transitioned to different social media platforms such as bluesky, facebook and LinkedIn.

### **Finance matters**

All treasurers have submitted their annual reports by the end of June for the external audit by the BAAL accountant Abji Kurban. Regarding the proposal of providing an additional banking format, i.e. a cash format, we received further clarification from Kurban. We also received some comments/questions from SIG convenors and treasurers. With the support of the BAAL Chair, Treasurer and Secretary, the SIG co-ordinator has drafted a guideline).

### **SIG tracks at annual conference**

The BAAL annual conference for 2025 (organised and hosted by University of Glasgow) is scheduled to take place in person on 4-6 September 2024. A total 464 abstracts were received for the SIG tracks and 164 were accepted. 21 SIG tracks will take place at the coming annual conference. The LOC provides one £50 registration discount to support the Convenor (or a representative) from each SIG to attend the annual conference. The BAAL EC is also looking to trial providing additional support (£50) to SIGs which require it. 17 SIG convenors (or a representative from the EC) will attend the conference and help chair the SIG tracks. A SIG convenors' meeting will take place during the conference.

### **Looking ahead**

The challenges faced by the SIG convenors and treasurers regarding banking issues have taken up considerable time and effort in the last couple of years. With the terms and safeguarding measures, the new proposed cash format would hopefully reduce some of the

banking complications. The BAAL EC will monitor the use of this new format, if approved at the EC meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> September, with the support of our external accountant.

As the number of BAAL SIGs has increased regularly, we hope to focus on facilitating information sharing among the SIGs and between the SIGs and the BAAL members. The following would be our priorities this year:

- set up a document sharing system
- create a live list of SIG activities to provide a regular update, e.g. every three months for various stakeholders (incl. the BAAL EC, BAAL SIGs, BAAL members). The regular updates can be publicised via the BAAL newsletter, LinkedIn etc.)
- redesign the BAAL SIG page (<https://www.baal.org.uk/what-we-do/special-interest-groups>)

As always, a big thank-you to all convenors and EC members for your passion and hard work running the BAAL SIGs.

**Sathena Chan, August 2025**

## **Web Editor's Report**

Over the past 12 months, the website has undergone routine updates to inform the community of various events and news in the field of Applied Linguistics. This has included updating the website with the relevant newsletters, news and announcements, information about the 2025 conference, book prizes and new Special Interest Groups. Analytics for the website are outlined below. There has also been a change of personnel with Sin Wang Chong stepping down. We thank Sin Wang for his service and wish him all the best with his future endeavour. We are thankful that one of our ordinary members, Paweł Szudarski, has stepped in to complete the remainder of the term.

### **1) Website updates**

Since June 2025, several updates have been made to the website:

- EC membership
- Documents (BAAL EC Terms of reference)
- BAAL Researcher Development Workshops

### **2) Website analytics (period between 15 May – 13 August 2025)**

- 91% of our visitors are new while 9% returning visitors.
- 80% of our visitors browse on their desktops while 19% on their mobile devices.
- The top 10 countries/regions that visit our website are United Kingdom, United States, Japan, China, Germany, Hong Kong, Spain, Turkey, India & Australia. This demonstrates that BAAL has a relatively robust online presence globally.
- Most people visited BAAL's website through ChatGPT, Yandex (a Russian search engine), Google followed by Bing (cn.bing.com).
- Our most viewed pages are the BAAL landing page (2,899), Conferences (2,562) and Member Area (1,221).

**Alex Ho-Cheong Leung (on behalf of the Website editors), August 2025**

## **CLiE Representative's Report**

To follow

**Maria Arche, August 2025**