

SLA Weekly Newsletter
University of Maryland Second Language Acquisition Program/SLLC
Wednesday, April 4, 2007

Items in this issue:

1. Talk in HESP- "'Auditory perceptual deficits of older people: timing is everything" (4/11)
2. Position Available at CAL
3. Call for papers- Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) 2007
4. Call for Papers- "INSIDERS AND OUTSIDERS" An Interdisciplinary Conference for Graduate Students at Duke University
5. Language Testing Research Colloquium (LTRC) 2007

1. Talk in HESP- "'Auditory perceptual deficits of older people: timing is everything" (4/11)

by Dr. Sandra Gordon-Salant, Professor, Hearing and Speech Sciences

DATE/TIME: April 11, 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm

LOCATION: 0135 LeFrak

2. Position Available at CAL

Job Title: Language Testing Technician

Division/Program: Language Testing Division/WIDA

Hours per week: Full time

Position Available: Immediately

Salary: \$32,500 to \$46,000 FTE per annum depending upon qualifications

DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES:

Assist with research and test development for a large-scale English language assessment for K-12 English language learners.

Specific Responsibilities:

- * Review test items for content accuracy.
- * Maintain and coordinate the test item database.
- * Prepare and maintain a variety of files and records (e.g., research summary reports, bibliographies, etc.) in support of research efforts.
- * Write and review test materials and documents (e.g., charts, forms, schedules, etc.)
- * Assist test administrators with technical demands of training applications.
- * Respond to inquiries of administrators, district personnel, and test administrators.
- * Other tasks as assigned

QUALIFICATIONS:

Education:

B.A./B.S. in Linguistics, Education, or related discipline. Masters degree preferred.

Experience:

Must have experience working with English language learners in K-12.

Experience in assessment, literacy and/or content area instruction is desirable. Must be able to prioritize work and give attention to detail while meeting deadlines and have strong written and oral communication skills.

In accordance with INS regulations, all successful applicants will be required to show proof of their legal right to accept employment in the United States.

IF INTERESTED, SEND RESUME AND COVER LETTER TO:

CENTER FOR APPLIED LINGUISTICS

4646 40th Street, N.W.

Washington, D.C. 20016-1859

ATTN: Recruitment 07-04

3. Call for papers- Second Language Research Forum (SLRF) 2007

The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will host the 30th annual Second Language Research Forum on October 11th - October 14th, 2007. The theme of SLRF 2007 is "Second Language Acquisition and Research: Focus on Form and Function". In order to explore the myriad ways in which learners map the forms they acquire to the functions that the forms are required to serve, research presented at this conference will highlight the interconnections and interfaces between form and function in SLA research and practices. It will also explore the implications of these interfaces for second language pedagogy.

Invited speakers include:

Gabriele Kasper, University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Silvina Montrul, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

James Purpura, Teachers College, Columbia University

Lydia White, McGill University

We are pleased to invite proposals for papers, posters, and thematic colloquia investigating form and function in SLA from any of the following research areas:

Formal approaches to SLA

Functional approaches to SLA

Conversation analysis (CA for SLA)

Testing and assessment

Heritage language acquisition

Psycholinguistic approaches to SLA

Classroom research

SLA pedagogy

Naturalistic SLA

CALL / CMC

Learner corpora and SLA

Abstract submission will be done online, on the SLRF 2007 website: <http://www.slrff-2007.uiuc.edu>. Click on the "Abstracts" link on the left, and follow the instructions there.

Only online PDF submissions at the site specified above will be accepted. Abstracts should be anonymous. They must be limited to 400 words for papers or posters, and 500 words (plus individual abstracts submitted separately) for thematic colloquia. Each author may submit no more than one individual and one co-authored abstract.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: May 1, 2007

Notification of Acceptance: July 1, 2007

Please contact the SLRF 2007 organizers at slrf-2007@uiuc.edu if you have any questions.-

4. Call for Papers- "INSIDERS AND OUTSIDERS" An Interdisciplinary Conference for Graduate Students at Duke University

September 21-22, 2007

The graduate students of the Romance Studies department at Duke University are pleased to invite submissions for their fifth annual interdisciplinary conference. The conference will bring together graduate students from a wide variety of disciplines whose work engages questions of inclusion and exclusion. In order to encourage a truly interdisciplinary exchange of ideas, we welcome papers in fields including, but certainly not limited to: literary studies, political science, cultural anthropology, philosophy, Latin American studies, art history, language studies, women's studies, history, film studies, critical theory, media studies, musicology, European studies, and psychology. We hope to initiate meaningful conversation through an exploration of various problems posed by inclusion and exclusion.

Papers could engage questions such as:

- How are so-called "underground" texts (literature, film, music, etc.) and their authors affected by mainstream approval? Why might an author/artist choose to stay "underground"?
- To what degree is the dynamic of citizen participation and exclusion fundamental to the existence of the nation-state?
- What is "inside" a text, and what is "outside"? How do marginal notes, early drafts, a writer's biography, her correspondence, etc., relate to the "finished" text?
- What are the stakes of membership in a religious, political, social, or ethnic group? Of exclusion? What is at stake when a non-member becomes a member of these groups (or vice versa)?
- Higher education: bastion of the elite or motor of social advancement?

- Is the distinction between “insiders and outsiders” a false dichotomy? What are some ways this distinction might break down? Is there such a thing as an intermediate or liminal position?
- How does technology unite or divide people?
- What is the relationship between works in the literary or religious canon and marginal, dissident or apocryphal works?
- How are so-called “minor” languages—languages spoken by minority groups inside countries like Spain, France, Italy, Switzerland, etc.—faring in artistic/literary production?
- Does a language’s status as a minority dialect confer special status on those who speak/write it? Or does such status doom a language’s speakers to existence on the margins?
- How do peripheries define the center (and vice versa)?
- How do public spaces (museums, monuments, parks, etc.) baptize the citizen into the national family? What are the implications of presence in or absence from such places?
- In an age that has seen increasing globalization and the advent of “virtual space,” what is the significance of national/regional boundaries? Are boundaries, and hence categories like “citizen,” “resident,” “immigrant,” etc. losing their relevance?

Please send abstracts of approximately 250 words to insidersandoutsiders@gmail.com. Abstracts must be submitted in English. In order to facilitate discussion across the disciplines, presentations will also be made in English. Presentations will last 12-15 minutes. With your submission, please include on a separate page your name, institutional affiliation, phone number, street address, email address, and a brief biographical sketch focusing on your academic work.

Deadline for submissions is June 15.

5. Language Testing Research Colloquium (LTRC) 2007

Theme: Exploring Diverse Methodologies & Conceptualizations in Language Testing Research

University of Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain
June 7 – 11, 2007

LTRC Highlights

- Messick Memorial Lecture: Toward a test theory for the interactionist era (Robert J. Mislevy)
- UCLES/ILTA Lifetime Achievement Speech: Reflections on where we have been and where we should go (Charles W Stansfield)
- Symposium 1: The measurement of language aptitude and high-level L2 abilities (M. Long, C. Doughty & K. Gor),
- Symposium 2: Current perspectives on language assessment for migration and citizenship" (N. Saville, E. Shohamy, S Gysen, K. Dalderop & A.Kunnan)
- Symposium 3: Cognitive diagnosis approaches in language assessment (Y-W. Lee, H-J. Kim, Y. Sawaki, E. Eunhee Jang & A. Kunnan)
- * 29 papers, 16 posters, and 10 works-in-progress Pre-LTRC Workshops
- Language testing: the social dimension" (T. McNamara & C. Roever)
- Using qualitative research methods in test development & validation (L. Taylor)

- Statistical analyses for language assessment (L. Bachman & A. Kunnan)
- A short course on structural equation modeling (B. Byrne & A. Geranpayeh)

For More Information:

On LTRC's program, registration & hotels: <http://www.iltaonline.com/ltrc07/index.htm>

On the International Language Testing Association (ILTA): <http://www.iltaonline.com/>
