

Workshop Announcement

We are pleased to announce a workshop titled “Building sign language corpora in North America”.

Purpose of workshop: There are many definitions of a language corpus. One such definition offered by McEnery, Xiao and Tono (2006) is a collection of texts in a given language that is representative, comprehensive, accessible, machine-readable and searchable. There are several ongoing language corpora projects focused on the documentation of sign languages in countries like Australia, The Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Germany. To date, there have been several workshops in Europe on various aspects of building a sign language corpus (e.g., the SLCN series of workshops co-organized by Onno Crasborn and colleagues). This workshop will provide a much needed opportunity for researchers based in the US and Canada to share experiences from their work in this area, as well as share ideas for future projects.

Program information: The workshop will begin on **Saturday, May 21, 2011, at 8:30 am** and take place at **Gallaudet University**, in the **Student Academic Center (SAC), Room 1011**. The complete list of presenters is as follows:

- Ted Supalla (University of Rochester)
- Christian Rathmann (University of Hamburg)
- Trevor Johnston (Macquarie University), Adam Schembri (La Trobe University), Kearsy Cormier, Jordan Fenlon, and Ramas Rentelis (University College London)
“Type-token matching in annotated SL corpora”
- Rosalee Wolfe, John C. McDonald, and Jerry Schnepf (DePaul University)
“Synthetic and acquired corpora: meeting at the annotation”
- Ronnie B. Wilbur, Kadir Gokgoz and Robin Shay (Purdue University), Aleix Martinez (Ohio State University)
“Mechanics and Issues in Making ASL Databases Available”
- Carol Neidle (Boston University)
- Kearsy Cormier, Jordan Fenlon and Ramas Rentelis (University College London), Adam Schembri (La Trobe University), Trevor Johnston (Macquarie University)
“Multiple access levels and multiple interfaces of the BSL and Auslan Corpora”
- Jonathan Keane (University of Chicago), Susan Rizzo (University of Chicago), Diane Brentari (Purdue University), and Jason Riggle (University of Chicago)
“Phonetic coding of fingerspelling”
- Adam Frost (Gallaudet University)
“Sign Language Corpus using SignWriting”
- Diane Lillo-Martin, University of Connecticut

In addition, on Sunday, May 22, 2011, from 9 am to noon, there will be an ELAN training session by Julie Hochgesang for those who are interested.

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Conference languages: We welcome presentations in ASL or International Sign (IS), and will provide ASL/English and ASL/IS interpretation.

Registration information: Registration is free but required and due by **May 16, 2011**. To register, please send an email to sign.corpus.workshop@gmail.com with the following information:

- (i) your name
- (ii) your affiliation
- (iii) your email address
- (iv) whether you wish to participate in the ELAN training on Sunday

There is a fee of \$10 for lunch on Saturday – please bring this in cash with you to the workshop.

Lodging information: A block of rooms has been reserved at the Hilton Garden Inn, which is located next to the New York Avenue/Gallaudet metro station on the Red Line and about 8-10 minutes walking distance from the workshop venue. For workshop participants, the hotel is offering a discounted rate of \$129/night plus 14.5% taxes. The discounted rate is good until **May 13, 2011**. To make reservations, please call the toll-free number 1-800-HILTONS or the hotel directly at 202-408-4870 and identify yourself as a member of the Corpus Workshop group when making the reservation. Alternatively, you may book online at the following link and use the booking code CORPU.

<http://hiltongardeninn.hilton.com/en/gi/hotels/index.jhtml?ctyhocn=DCANMGI>

Co-organizers:

Julie Hochgesang, Gene Mirus, and Gaurav Mathur (Gallaudet University)