

Claire's Corner

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2022 is the third year of the Covid-19 pandemic, and we continue to see some effects of pandemic-related shutdowns and disruptions in the publication pipeline. In 2020, *Diachronica* received many more submissions than usual, combined with a substantial backlog at all stages of the publication process from review to printing. In 2021, we mostly returned to pre-pandemic timelines, with the exception of time between acceptance and publication. Due to our extensive backlog of accepted papers, publication time was almost a year from acceptance to appearance in print. However, because of the move to online first, papers were available in advance of print considerably earlier. 2022, however, has been more variable than 2021. There was a substantial downturn in submissions in the first half of 2022 and no increase in submissions in the Northern Hemisphere summer, though in the last months we have seen a clear uptick both in new submissions and resubmissions.

We continue to be very grateful to the reviewers whose expertise is vital to the smooth running of the journal. *Diachronica* has not had the same difficulty in finding reviewers that many other journals have reported. There was a period in 2021 and early 2022 where more invitations were declined than we usually see, but that trend has now reversed. Last year I reported a somewhat worrying number of reviewer requests that were accepted but not fulfilled – a practice that causes long delays in decisions. I am happy to say that we have had fewer instances of “reviewer ghosting” in 2022. If you do not currently review for *Diachronica* and would like to, please let me know, as we are always keen to broaden participation.

As of 2022, *Diachronica* moved from 4 issues per year to 5, remaining at a target of 145 pages per issue. This is the fourth major increase for the journal (both in number of issues and in page counts) and we are very pleased to see that research in historical linguistics continues to support these increases.

Supplementary materials

One change we've seen over the last few years is the number of papers with electronic supplementary materials. While we can host them with the publisher, we'd like to have a more permanent repository. *Diachronica* has a Zenodo.org community (<https://zenodo.org/communities/diachronica/>) and we encourage authors to add their Zenodo records here. We also permit archiving with Open Science (osf.io) or other archival platforms. Doing so contributes to reproducible research (cf. Berez-Kroeker et al. 2018).

Thematic or special issues

Diachronica has periodically published special issues around a particular theme (on complex predicates in 2008, quantitative approaches to linguistic diversity in 2010, and treebanks in 2017, for example). Given the number of submissions we receive, we have not attempted to expand the number of special issues, treating them, instead, as periodic opportunities. Since we are now increasing the number of pages in each volume, however, the editorial team has decided to offer thematic issues more consistently, as a way of encouraging and promoting research in particular areas of language change. The first of these thematic issues is on Signed Language Historical Linguistics, and has a target submission date of May 1, 2023. We invite papers that deal with change in languages in the gestural/visual (or tactile) modality, combine new insights of theoretical interest with rigorous analysis of data, and have a diachronic focus. Topics may address a wide range of issues related to language change including, but not limited to:

- Processes of change in the context of emerging home or village sign languages
- The historical emergence and development of signed languages that have been linked to the establishment of schools for the deaf or other institutions
- Contact between signed languages or between signed and spoken/written languages
- Theoretical contributions to models of language families, cognacy, and linguistic relatedness in the context of sign languages
- Effects of language modality on processes of language change: e.g., effects of iconicity, effects of aspects of linguistics structure that are typical of a given language modality, etc.
- Language change at all linguistic levels within stable sign languages
- Comparative/historical reconstruction of earlier stages of sign languages
- Sign etymologies

- Presentation of historically-oriented or comparative corpora for sign languages

Diachronica's 40th Anniversary

2023 marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the journal, and we plan to celebrate! It is a time both to look back and to look forward, reflecting on the history of the field (which, granted, extends far further back than *Diachronica!*) and discussing its priorities for the next 40. We will be making several important papers in the journal's history available through Open Access. And we will publish a series of reflections "40@40", where linguists from around the world reflect on how historical linguistics has changed, where it's going, and what they see as the most pressing questions for research.

In memoriam


This is also the point in the year where we remember the colleagues we've lost. *Diachronica's* founding editor, E. F. Konrad Koerner, passed away earlier this year. Brian Joseph and Joe Salmons have an obituary in this issue of the historical linguist and historiographer of linguistics. Also remembered are Haruo Aoki, Bob Blust, Nora England, Terry Kaufman, James W. Marchand, Tom Markey, David Pentland and Bruce Rigsby.

References

- Berez-Kroeker, Andrea L., Lauren Gawne, Susan Smythe Kung, Barbara F. Kelly, Tyler Heston, Gary Holton, Peter Pulsifer, David I. Beaver, Shobhana Chelliah and Stanley Dubinsky. 2018. Reproducible research in linguistics: A position statement on data citation and attribution in our field. *Linguistics* 56(1). 1–18. <https://doi.org/10.1515/ling-2017-0032>

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