Editorial

It was with impressive clairvoyance that, in 1993, Professor Marcelo Dascal founded the journal *Pragmatics & Cognition*. While linguistic pragmatics had always included an implicit cognitive component in addition to its much stronger roots in the philosophy of language, the inherent link to the cognitive sciences was all but obvious at the time. In the editorial introduction to the first volume of the journal, Marcelo Dascal detailed his vision as follows:

> A new journal, especially an interdisciplinary one, helps to shape a new research niche, carved out by a critical mass of work already in the making, but which has not so far found an adequate vehicle of diffusion and crystallization. The niche *Pragmatics & Cognition* has identified, and purports to develop, lies at the intersection of two rapidly expanding areas of research: pragmatics and the study of cognition. Each of these areas is concerned with one of the two most important kinds of (human) activity – the use of symbols and the performance of mental operations. Though the interdependence between these activities has been often asserted and discussed, it has not so far received the kind of systematic attention and specific research it well deserves. It is to the study of the interrelations between these two domains that *Pragmatics & Cognition* is primarily devoted.
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> (Dascal 1993: v)

In line with this mission statement, Marcelo Dascal raised, nourished, educated and emancipated the journal over the course of 23 years from its birth in 1993 up to the year 2016, when he decided to hand over responsibility. Over this long period, *Pragmatics & Cognition* became highly appreciated by the members of diverse research communities and proved to be a valuable outlet for and source of high-quality research on a wide range of topics. Many titles of papers and special issues from the early years in the mid-1990s have a ring to them which resonates extremely well in present-day ears, such is their appeal and potential contribution to current debates. Witness, for example, the papers entitled "Mental algorithms: Are minds computational systems?" and "Beyond proportional analogy: A structural model of analogical mapping" published by James H. Fetzer and Eric Steinhart, respectively, in Volume 2(1) in 1994. Other good examples include the much-quoted contribution "How language helps us think" by Ray Jackendoff (1996) and the

special issue on "Ecological validity in pragmatic research", co-edited by Aaron V. Cicourel and Albert Katz in the same year.

As founding and long-term Editor, Marcelo Dascal kept testing the limits of the connection between pragmatics (in a wide interpretation, as he had also noted in his 1993 editorial) and cognition (in a wide interpretation), inviting and accepting contributions ranging from cognitive approaches to speech act theory and (mis)understanding to philosophy, semiotics, cognitive science, cognitive anthropology, neuroscience, artificial intelligence, robotics and human-machine interaction. In a time in which the landscape of scientific journals was becoming more and more fragmented and specialized, Marcelo Dascal remained open to any potential innovation from all possible sources promising to improve our understanding of communication. This has enriched the journal and contributed to establishing and strengthening connections between increasingly isolated fields of research within the study of communication, as he had envisaged. It has become a commonplace to talk about scholars' "service to the community". Marcelo Dascal's deep commitment and unwavering support to the journal *Pragmatics & Cognition* certainly deserves this label in its most literal and strong meaning.

On 1 January 2017, responsibility for the journal was passed on to the two of us. The very fact that the founding and long-term Editor has been replaced by a new Editor (Hans-Jörg Schmid) and a Managing Editor (Franziska Günther) is enough to show how heavy the burden that Marcelo Dascal carried actually was. On top of that, we now have the assistance of the online Editorial Manager system, which helps us to keep track of submissions and the review procedure in a much more efficient way.

With great appreciation for the extremely wide scope established as the journal's hallmark, and with a commitment to keeping up this legacy, we will also try to strengthen *P&C*'s core profile, suggested by its name, at the crossroads of pragmatics, cognitive linguistics and cognitive science. While our own background lies in cognitive linguistics (cf., e.g., Ungerer and Schmid 2006, Günther 2016) and cognitive pragmatics (Schmid 2012), we will be happy to publish high-quality work from all the fields mentioned in the journal's mission statement. The members of the board of Associate Editors, some continuing their service to the journal and some newly appointed, bring in the expertise required for evaluating the whole spectrum of topics the journal aims to attract. We particularly invite submissions reporting on empirical research from all kinds of backgrounds that help us understand the way communication works in its situational, interactional, social, cultural and ideological contexts. Continuing the existing tradition, we will publish at least one special issue per yearly volume.

We are very grateful to Marcelo Dascal for trusting us with the care for his grown-up baby and to John Benjamins Publishing Company for considering us worthy of continuing the great tradition of *Pragmatics & Cognition*.

Hans-Jörg Schmid and Franziska Günther
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