



**10th International Colloquium on
Problems and Methods of the History of Language:
The complexity of languages**

Girona, 27th to 29th June 2016

Call for Papers

The International Colloquium on Problems and Methods of the History of Language, which has been held periodically at the University of Girona since the year 1991, is now in its tenth edition. On this occasion the contributions and discussions of the colloquium will be dedicated to *The complexity of languages*. If, as we have defended many times, the history of languages is simply the history of the construction of an ideal artefact that permits a specific interpretation of the linguistic reality and helps to approve and assimilate a certain zone of diversity, enabling the accumulation of collective historical knowledge and making us identify with a social community and a territory, then it must be agreed that languages are extremely complex entities.

Attempts have already been made to observe languages under the prism of the Theory of Systems which, without doubt, allows languages to be understood as a complex, adaptive system with a decisive inflexion point when they start to appear in written form. Nonetheless, in this tenth colloquium we would like to examine in particular the complex internal distribution of living languages which, despite often being seen as an obstacle to the installation and expansion of the *correct language*, is a cultural heritage of the highest order that is often invisible and almost always maltreated.

We believe that the new linguistic diversity that cultural globalisation and recent population movements have installed in most traditional linguistic territories has probably made the traditional ideology of the national language enter a state of crisis and, as a consequence, has made that ancient, intrinsic diversity of all languages visible, at least to the extent that this is still possible. Nowadays, then, the old linguistic diversity of dialects, of parlances, of local lexicons and the cultural forms that are reflected in these, of the impure varieties and of previously unsuccessful linguistic entities has been given a new opportunity in a world where the cohesion of societies and the welfare of citizens must be guaranteed using all available means, which without doubt contributes to the defence of linguistic specificities.

Looked at this way, the complexity of languages may even open up an opportunity for the economic and social development of some countries, who could take advantage of their linguistic singularity – which is almost always closely tied to other cultural peculiarities – to revitalise their productive fabric and strengthen local identity.

In the 10th Colloquium on Problems and Methods of the History of Language we would like to reflect upon these questions and to analyse the experiences of some countries where the utilisation of linguistic peculiarity has become a mechanism for local economic development. In summary, the topics of the colloquium will be:

- Languages and their internal variation.
- Constructing the standard and the representativity quotas that correspond to these variations.
- 'Linguistic rights' applicable to variations and dialects.
- Uses and benefits of intralinguistic diversity.
- Linguistic sentiment in relation to the standard and dialects.

These sessions will take place in the mornings and afternoons of 27th, 28th and 29th June 2016 in the Faculty of Arts of the University of Girona. The guest speakers on this occasion will be:

Giovanni Agresti (University of Teramo)

Joseph lo Bianco (University of Melbourne)

Jordi Colomina (University of Alicante)

Jean-Michel Eloy (University of Amiens)

Ferdinando Mirizzi (University of Basilicata)

Pietro Trifone (University of Rome Tor Vergata)

Each academic paper on the aforementioned topics that is accepted will be allocated a slot of a maximum of **20 minutes**. Those interested should submit before **1st March 2016** an abstract of 150 words using the [on-line form](#) available at the website of the Colloquium. Papers may be read in any Romance language or English. Confirmation of acceptance by the Scientific Committee will be announced before **8th March**, and registrations of successful papers must be made before **1st May**.

Deadline for submitting abstracts: 1st March 2016

Announcement of successful papers: 8th April 2016

Deadline for registering successful papers: 1st May 2016

Scientific Committee: Giovanni Agresti (University of Teramo), Wendy Ayres-Bennet (University of Cambridge), Anne-Marie Chabrolle-Cerretini (University of Lorraine), Pietro U. Dini (University of Pisa), Jean-Michel Eloy (University of Picardi), Antoni Ferrando (University of Valencia), Joan Mascaró (Amonomous University of Barcelona), Josep M. Nadal (University de Girona), Pablo del Río (Carles III University of Madrid), Rosana Sornicola (University of Naples Federico III), Iolanta Sujecka (University of Warsaw).

Organising Committee: Josep M. Nadal, Francesc Feliu, Olga Fullana, Natàlia Carbonell, Anna Pi (University of Girona), Ramon Sistac (Universitat de Lleida), Miquel Àngel Pradilla (Universitat Rovira i Virgili).

For more information go to [web of the Colloquium](#) or contact the History of Language Group at ghl@udg.edu .