



C A S T L

Center for Advanced Study
in Theoretical Linguistics

Annual Report 2005



CASTL is a Norwegian Centre of Excellence (CoE).

The CoE scheme was initiated by the Research Council of Norway, and the designation in 2002 of 13 Centres of Excellence marked the conclusion of the most far-reaching selection process ever to envelop Norwegian research.

The scheme entails that outstanding research groups, operating under coordinated management and research plans will receive long-term funding to engage in world-class basic research. The CoEs will receive annual grants from the Research Council averaging 10 to 20 million NOK for a maximum of ten years, based on host institution pledges to cover a considerable proportion of the CoEs' expenditures. Moreover, the CoEs are free to raise funding from other sources.

The CoEs will be evaluated by international experts in 2006.

The endless hospitality and the intellectual environment are the noteworthy things about CASTL. I was extremely impressed that the syntacticians were so interested in my work --which I approached from the phonology side.

*Larry Hyman,
University of
California,
Berkeley*

I was impressed by the very high quality of the papers at OCP2.

*John McCarthy,
University of
Massachusetts,
Amherst*

CASTL is an exciting environment for theoretical linguistics, now one of the major centers in the world.

*David Pesetsky,
MIT*

Tromsø is like Anchorage with considerably more phonologists and better beer.

*Siri Tuttle,
University of
Alaska, Fairbanks*

A word from the leadership

CASTL aspires to internationally recognized excellence in research and excellence in doctoral education. To achieve these goals, we depend on hiring the best and the brightest young researchers, and we depend on the freedom to develop not only our ideas but also our strategies for research and researcher training. This annual report offers selected highlights from the past year's work in pursuit of these goals.

Our success also depends on economic resources, and we are deeply grateful for the generous funding provided by the Norwegian Research Council, The University of Tromsø and the Faculty of Humanities.

In addition to our Center of Excellence financing, CASTL also hosts several other major grants; in 2005, CASTL was named as the host for a Nordic Center of Excellence in Micro-comparative Syntax (NORMS) with funding from the Nordic Research Councils for the Humanities and Social Sciences (NOS-HS). NORMS and other grants in theoretical linguistics at the Faculty of Humanities made it possible to hire several new colleagues this year. As a result, our center has surely become one of the most international research groups in Scandinavia, with over 20 nationalities represented!

Our activities this year included hosting over 100 guests at various workshops, conferences and short courses, including several who stayed on for longer periods to pursue their own projects and to share their results with us. Our researchers held more than 100 talks and published about 50 papers. We also had a successful doctoral defense, with several more just around the corner!

Finally, we note that CASTL's position in our field received an unexpected recognition when, in 2005, we were asked to become the first institution outside of North America to take editorial responsibility for the squibs section of the prestigious MIT-based journal, *Linguistic Inquiry*.

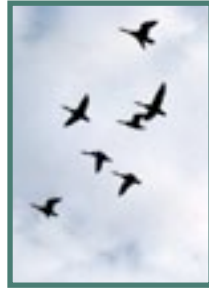
2005 has been a stellar year at CASTL. *Takk for innsatsen!*



Curt Rice
Director



Kirsti Koch Christensen
Chair of the Board of Directors



The Work

When linguists tell you that humans have language but animals don't, they aren't simply asserting an article of faith.

Human language differs fundamentally from animal communication systems. If our affection for apes or birds or whales leads us to claim that they too are capable of language, then this word no longer highlights the profound distinction between what humans do and what other animals do.

Language makes crucial use of combinatorial systems in ways which animal communication systems do not and,

"Human language differs fundamentally from animal communication systems."

indeed, in ways which animals have not yet been shown to be capable of mastering.

There are two central combinatorial systems in human language. Phonology combines non-meaningful elements such as phonemes and their features into morphemes or words, while syntax combines meaningful elements into complex words or phrases. Research on these two systems lies at the heart of the CASTL program.

The goal of our research is to model the combinatorial systems of human language. When we study phonology and syntax, we aspire to uncover the structures underlying language and to model the ways in which these structures interact with one another.

One of the CASTL projects in phonology this year investigates the nature of phonological features. What are the basic features on which sound inventories are built? How do these

"Language makes crucial use of combinatorial systems..."

"The goal of our research is to model the combinatorial systems of human language."

features combine and interact with one another? What is the relationship between these particular phonological features and phonetic behavior?

These questions were pursued in 2005 by studying some of the world's smallest documented consonantal

inventories in an attempt to identify the fundamental properties of simple systems. Analyses were developed for languages such as Hawaiian, Maori, Sye, Rapanui, Palauan and Rotokos. These were later compared with some languages with larger inventories, such as Slavic (Serbian and Russian), Bantu (Kitharaka) and Semitic (Cairene Arabic).

The research carried out by this team has led to a number of results. We see, for example, that small inventories appear to display



“Analyses were developed for languages such as Hawaiian, Maori, Sye, Rapanui, Palauan and Rotokos.”

more phonetic variation in segment realization and dispersion within the acoustic-articulatory space than larger inventories. Variation in the mapping of phonological features to phonetics suggests potentially greater distance than often imagined between the organizational principles of the vocal tract and the features that should be used to describe phonological behavior.

In the upcoming year, we will continue to examine small inventories outside the Pacific families and will begin looking at more Slavic, Bantu, Semitic, and Finno-Ugric (Hungarian, Lule Sámi, Southern Sámi and Northern Sámi) languages, as well as some of the largest documented inventories (Caucasian, Kwa and Khoisan families). One of our long-term goals is to develop a database of segment inventories that provides detailed descriptions of phonetic variation and phonological patterns along with a comparison of traditional featural accounts and the one we are developing.

Another project making great progress this year studies the syntax of prepositions and postpositions focusing on how they express motion (*as in Mary jumped into the boat*) and location (*cf. Mary jumped around in the boat*). There is rich cross-linguistic variation to be seen in this study; in Germanic alone, for this one example type, we see German and Icelandic with a dative-accusative alternation, Swedish and Norwegian with an intonational

“One of our long-term goals is to develop a database of segment inventories...”

contrast, Dutch and Afrikaans with a word-order difference, English with the difference between *in* and *into*, not to mention the Scandinavian alternation *inn* – *inne*, all corresponding to the difference between direction and location. Questions to be addressed by the researchers working on this project involve the expression of tense and case assignment, as well as the question of whether prepositions and



Professor Peter Svenonius lectures for over 1000 guests at “En fremragende aften” in Oslo. Photo: Arne B. Langleite



postpositions are fundamentally the same, or not.

The data collection for this project begins with contributions from the Tromsø environment, where we have

"...we have linguists who are native speakers of many Germanic, Romance, and Slavic languages, plus Northern Sámi, Finnish, Kitharaka (Bantu), Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Farsi..."

linguists who are native speakers of many Germanic, Romance, and Slavic languages, plus Northern Sámi, Finnish, Kitharaka (Bantu), Japanese, Korean, Chinese, Farsi, as well as linguists who do research on Scottish Gaelic, Bengali, Austronesian, and other languages. In the coming year, we'll be using these

The sense of community among the graduate students and faculty is palpable and impressive.

*Chris Golston,
California State
University Fresno*

data to develop hypotheses about the fine structure of prepositional phrases, and connecting our work to theoretical developments emerging from some of CASTL's other syntax teams.

CASTL has now completed its third year of operations, and during 2006 we will undergo a major evaluation of our work. Our evaluators will consider the work mentioned above along with the work of all our other research teams, our investment in graduate education, our position in our field internationally and the role of our center at the University of Tromsø. We look forward to this opportunity to present our accomplishments; check back next year to learn about the results!

Tromsø looks and feels like a university that cares about its students and staff – and about higher education in general.

*Allison Wetterlin,
University of
Konstanz*

Researcher Training School

CASTL is among a handful of groups selected by the Board of Directors at the University of Tromsø to experiment with new forms of doctoral education. It's our privilege to be part of developing a creative approach and to help move towards a situation in which graduate school includes intense training for a class of young researchers, culminating in a dissertation project that emerges from the local research environment.

When Ph.D. students arrive at the CASTL graduate school, they consult with an advisor to select three seminars

"When Ph.D. students arrive at the CASTL graduate school, they consult with an advisor to select three seminars or courses to follow already in the first semester."

"...students focus on their work as members of research teams and on writing papers."

or courses to follow already in the first semester. This results in immediate integration into the CASTL research teams, although students might also choose to participate in formal courses offered elsewhere at the Faculty of

Humanities or beyond. During this initial period, which persists for the first few semesters, students focus on their work as members of research teams and on writing papers. In this way, they engage in a rigorous and demanding program. Frequent

individual meetings with team leaders, advisors, and other faculty keep them on track, moving steadily forward.

A dissertation project emerges from the intensive work carried out early in the program, and the papers that the students have written during that period will contribute to the dissertation. Students in their third and fourth years will set off increasing amounts of time for writing up their research as a unified opus, but nonetheless will continue at least as part of the research team most relevant for their work.

Our Ph.D. program is still young, but already we are seeing results in the form of rapid advance-

ment among our doctoral students. They are making several conference presentations – both at the the important student conferences held in our field and at other major international conferences. Our students are also

"A dissertation project emerges from the intensive work carried out early in the program..."

publishing articles, including some in refereed journals.

We count on continuing this program with stable and predictable funding, admitting a class of students each year.

"We count on continuing this program with stable and predictable funding, admitting a class of students each year."

Given this opportunity, several preliminary indicators give us reason to believe that CASTL's engaged, hands-on, intensive approach to doctoral education will result in many successful

dissertations in the coming years from the University of Tromsø.

I tell my Ph.D. students that they should definitely try to spend some time there. Tromsø is a paradise for linguists.

*Bozena
Rozwadowska,
University of
Wroclaw*

The People

Senior Researchers



Professor Curt Rice,
Senior Researcher and Director
Phonological theory, OT, metrical theory, comparative Germanic phonology.



Professor Peter Svenonius
The semantics-syntax interface



Professor Knut Tarald Taraldsen
Syntactic theory, Scandinavian and Romance syntax



Associate Professor Ove Lorentz
Phonological theory, OT, Scandinavian and Sámi phonology



Professor Michal Starke
Architecture of grammar, labelling and compositionality, the syntax of morphology, passives, adjectives, functional projections (fseq)

Postdoctoral Research Fellows/ Researchers



Bruce Morén
Phonological representation, feature theory, weight theory, tone theory, consonant-vowel comparison, phonetics-phonology interface, Sign Language linguistics



Luisa Marti
Semantics, syntax (context, anaphora, quantification, focus, null constituents, indefinites)



Anna-Lena Wiklund
Syntax



Isabelle Roy
The syntax-semantics interface



Christian Uffmann
Phonological theory (Optimality Theory, segmental phonology), language contact (loanword phonology, creole phonology)



Minjeong Son
The Syntax- (Event)Semantics Interface, Lexical Decomposition, Complex Predicates, Adpositions, Korean/Austronesian Linguistics

Øystein Nilsen
Syntax, semantics, lexical categories

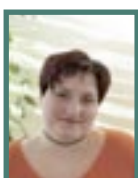
Research Fellows (Ph.D. students)



Kristine Bentzen
Comparative syntax, the relationship between syntax and morphology, first language acquisition



Kaori Takamine
Japanese syntax, Syntactic theory



Sylvia Blaho
Phonological representation, voicing-related phenomena, syllabic Consonants



Yulia Rodina
Morphology, Grammatical gender, First Language Acquisition



Madeleine Halmøy
Comparative syntax, nominal predicates, NP/DP-structure



Xuan Di
Syntactic theory; Mandarin Chinese (Beijing Dialect)



Björn Lundquist
Syntax, double object constructions and modality.



Marina Pantcheva
The syntax of prepositional phrases in Persian and Bulgarian



Peter Muriungi
General Bantu syntax, the syntax of focus, the syntax of questions



Monika Bašič
Syntax



Pavel Caha
Syntax and Morphology (of Slavic languages)

Affiliates

Klaus Abels, Associate Professor
 Merete Anderssen, Ph.D. student
 Helene N. Andreassen, Ph.D. student
 Berit Anne Bals, Ph.D. student
 Patrik Bye, Associate Professor
 Thorbjörg Hróarsdóttir, Professor
 Vyara Istratkova, Ph.D. student
 Patrycja Jablonska, Ph.D. student
 Martin Krämer, Associate Professor
 Chantal Lyche, Professor
 Tore Nettet, Professor
 Gillian Ramchand, Professor
 Eugenia Romanova, Ph.D. student
 Trond Trosterud, Researcher
 Mai Tungseth, Ph.D. student
 Øystein A. Vangsnes, Postdoctoral Research Fellow
 Marit R. Westergaard, Associate Professor
 Christine B. Østbø, Ph.D. student



Administrative staff

Ståle Berglund, Head of Administration
 Anne Dahl, Executive Officer (until August 05)
 Carina E Reinholtsen, Executive Officer (from September 05)



Board of Directors

Professor Kirsti Koch Christensen, University of Bergen (chair)
 Professor Peter Svenonius, CASTL
 Professor Rolf Gaasland, University of Tromsø
 Associate Professor Paula Fikkert, Katholieke Universiteit Nijmegen
 Professor Höskuldur Thráinsson, Háskóli Íslands



Substitute representative:

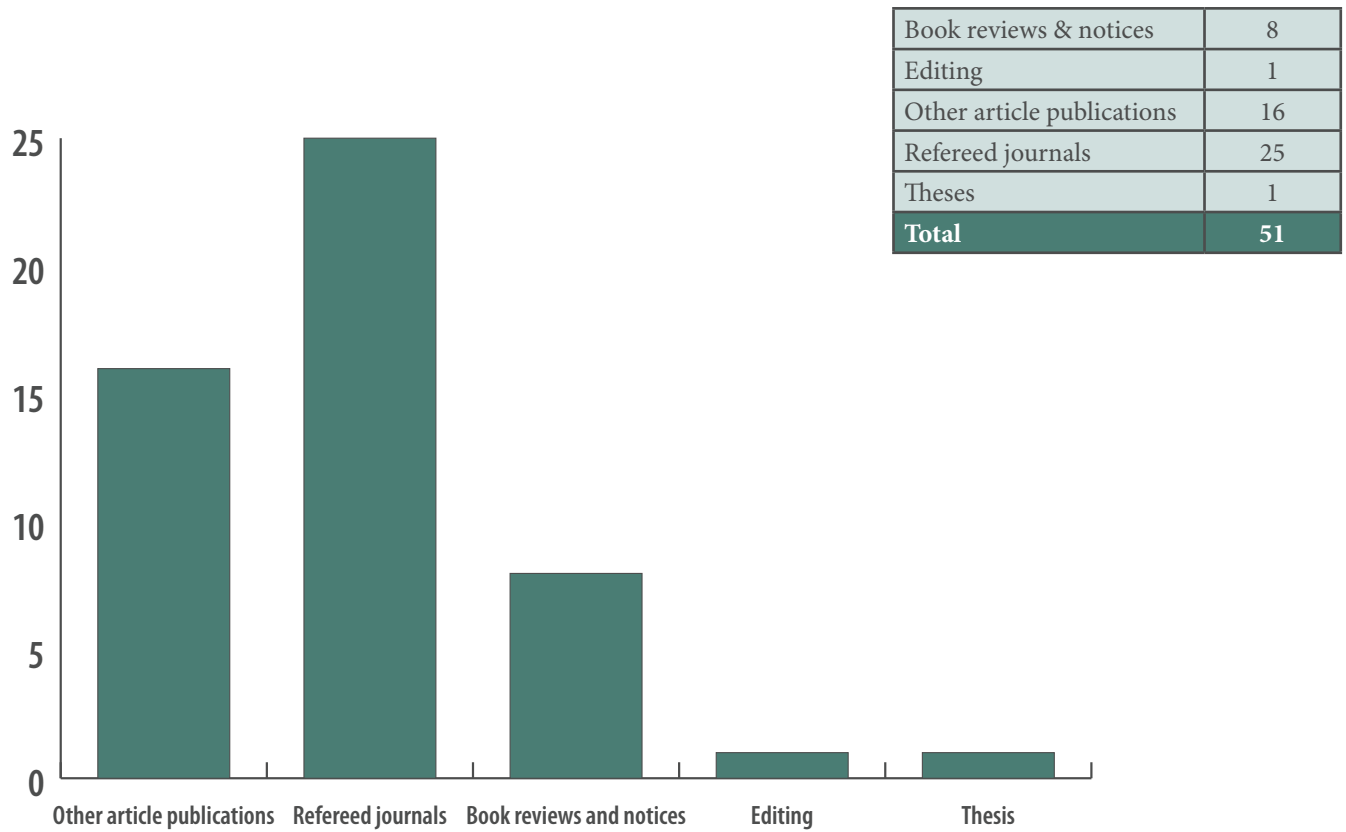
Professor Guglielmo Cinque, Università Ca' Foscari di Venezia



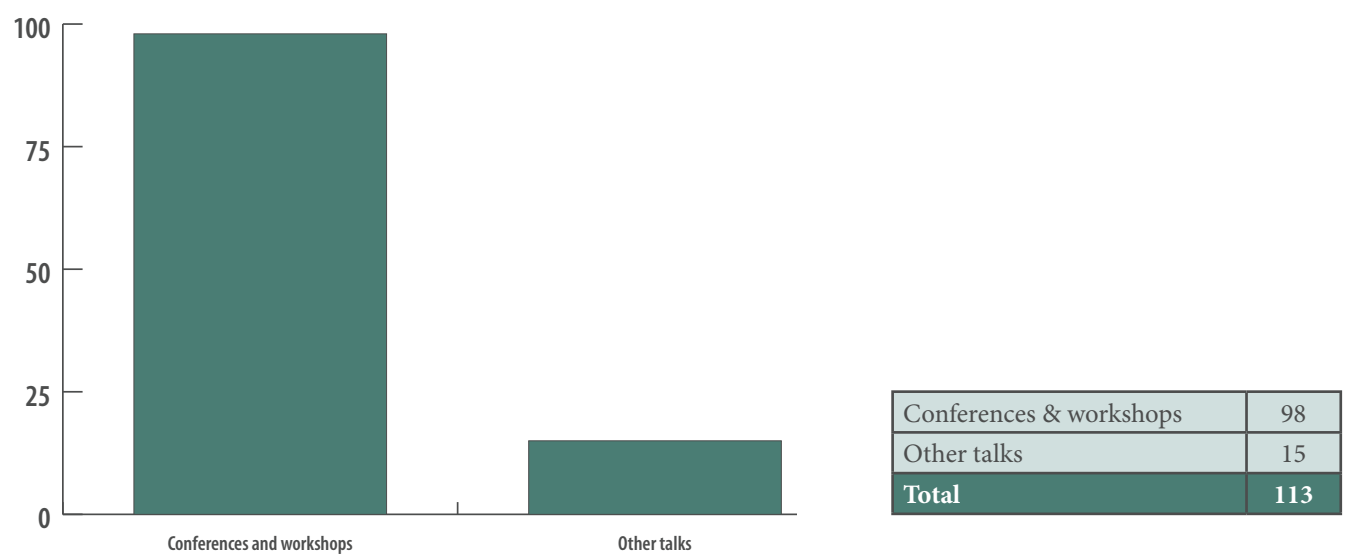
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The Output**List of selected articles 2005**

- Klaus Abels
Remarks on Grimshaw's Clausal Typology
Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 9
- Klaus Abels
Revolution #9 - Not by the Beatles
University of Connecticut Working Papers in Linguistics 12
- Klaus Abels
'Expletive Negation' in Russian: A Conspiracy Theory
Journal of Slavic linguistics
- Kristine Bentzen
What's the better move? On verb placement in Standard and Northern Norwegian
Nordic Journal of Linguistics
- Patrik Bye
Coda Maximization in Northwest Saamic
Nordic Journal of Linguistics
- Martin Krämer
Contiguity and non-derived environment blocking of s-voicing in Lombardian and Tuscan Italian
Probus
- Martin Krämer
Optimal underlying representations
NELS 35
- Tore Nessel
Allomorphy in the usage-based model: The Russian past passive participle
Cognitive Linguistics
- Tore Nessel
Case Assignment in Russian Temporal Adverbials: an Image Schematic Approach
Glossos
- Gillian Ramchand and Charles Reiss (editors)
Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Interfaces
Oxford University Press
- Gillian Ramchand and Miriam Butt
Complex Aspectual Structure in Hindi/Urdu
The Syntax of Aspect
Oxford University Press
- Gillian Ramchand and Raffaella Folli
Prepositions and Results in Italian and English: An Analysis from Event Decomposition
Perspectives on Aspect
Springer
- Curt Rice
Optimal gaps in optimal paradigms
Catalan Journal of Linguistics
- Curt Rice
Optimizing Russian Gender: A Preliminary Analysis
Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics 13
Michigan Slavic Publications
- Eugenia Romanova
Perfect explorations. 2003. Eds. Alexiadou, Rathert and von Stechow
Language
- Peter Svenonius
How Phonological is Object Shift?
Theoretical Linguistics
- Peter Svenonius
Carola Triips: From OV to VO in Early Middle English
Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics
- Knut Tarald Taraldsen
Wanna and the prepositional complementizers of English
Organizing Grammar. Linguistic Studies in Honor of H. v. Riemsdijk.
Mouton de Gruyter
- Mai Tungseth
PP, FP and the telic/atelic distinction in Norwegian motion constructions
Aspectual Inquiries
Springer
- Marit R. Westergaard
The Development of Word Order in Norwegian Child Language: The Interaction of Input and Economy Principles in the Acquisition of V2
University of Tromsø
- Marit R. Westergaard
Optional Word Order in Wh-Questions in Two Norwegian Dialects: A Diachronic Analysis of Synchronic Variation.
Nordic Journal of Linguistics
- Marit R. Westergaard and Øystein A. Vangsnes
Wh-questions, V2 and the Left Periphery of Three Norwegian Dialects
Journal of Comparative Germanic Syntax
- Marit R. Westergaard
Norwegian child language and the history of English: The interaction of syntax and information structure in the development of word order
Contexts - Historical, Social, Linguistic. Studies in Celebration of Toril Swan.
Peter Lang

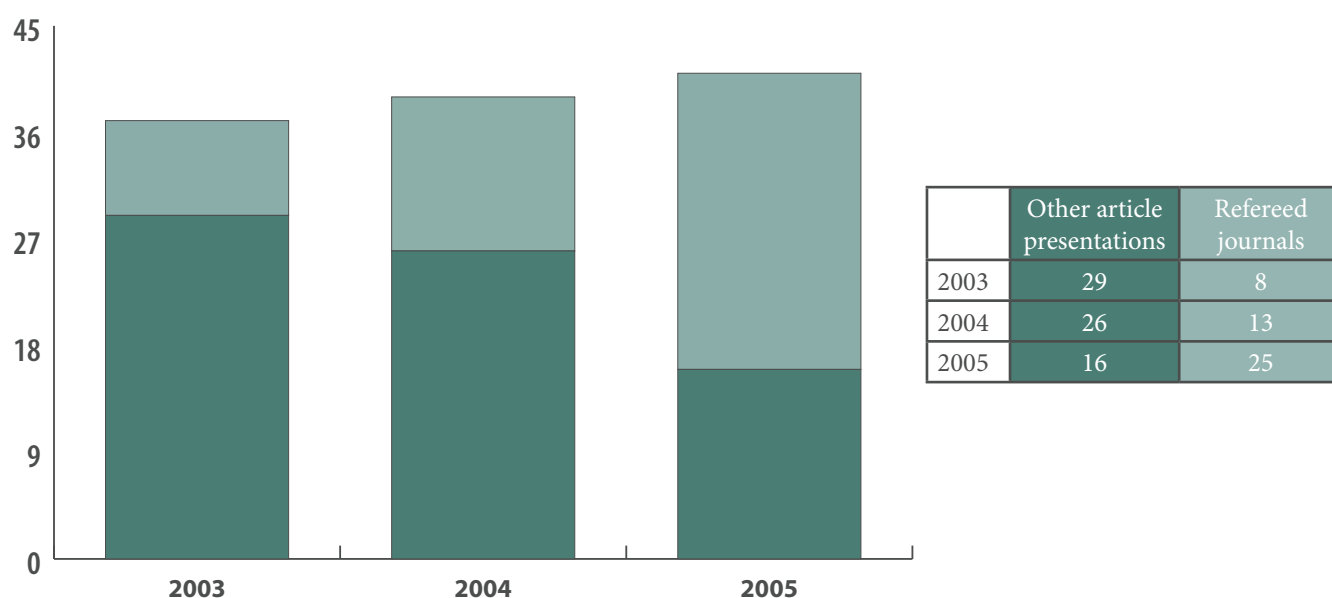
Publications 2005



Presentations 2005



Development in article production



CASTLs invited guests 2005

Butt, Miriam, Universität Konstanz
 Durand, Jacques, Université de Toulouse-Le Mirail
 Faarlund, Jan Terje, Universitetet i Oslo
 Feest, Suzanne van der, Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen
 Fikkert, Paula, Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen
 Goldsmith, John, University of Chicago
 Golston, Chris, California State University Fresno
 Graf, Dafna, Universiteit Leiden
 Hellan, Lars, NTNU
 Hyman, Larry, University of California, Berkeley
 Jónsson Jóhannes Gísli, University of Iceland
 Kløve, Marit Helene, Universitetet i Bergen
 Laks, Bernard, Université de Paris-X
 Mascaró, Joan, Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona
 McCarthy, John J., University of Massachusetts Amherst

Neeleman, Adrian, University College London
 Nespor, Marina, Università di Ferrara
 Odden, David, Ohio State University
 Oostendorp, Marc van, Meertens Institute
 Pesetsky, David, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Puskas, Geneveva, Université de Genève
 Rebrus, Péter, Research Institute for Linguistics of the
 Hungarian Academy of Sciences
 Rozwadowska, Bozena, Uniwersytet Wrocławski
 Stechow, Arnim von, Universität Tübingen
 Törkenczy, Miklos, Research Institute for Linguistics of the
 Hungarian Academy of Sciences
 Uffmann, Christian, Philipps-Universität Marburg
 Visser, Marianna, Stellenbosch University

Conferences - Workshops - Seminars

2nd Old World Conference in Phonology (OCP2)

(January 20-22)

In January CASTL was the host for OCP2, with keynote speakers Joan Mascaró (Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona), John J. McCarthy (University of Massachusetts Amherst) and Marina Nespor (Università di Ferrara). Approx. 70 people attended this conference.

The Pesetsky Lectures

(March 14-16)

This lecture series was held by David Pesetsky (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), and attended by 30 people.

Paradigms in Phonology: Contrast, Analogy, and Defectivity

(April 25-29)

This was a one week course with guest lecturers Miklós Törkenczy and Péter Rebrus from the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and ELTE, in Budapest. The course included approx. 10 hours of teaching, for about 10 participants.

The Structure of Bantu

(May 30-June 3)

This Workshop was partly a doctoral course with both national and international Ph.D. students attending. Invited speakers were Larry Hyman (University of California, Berkeley) and Marianna Visser (Stellenbosch University). 35 people participated in these lectures. The Structure of Bantu was financed by NFU-H.

Phonological Variation: The Case of French

(August 25-27)

This conference was hosted by CASTL and sponsored by the PFC group (Phonology of Contemporary French), headed by Bernard Laks, Jacques Durand and Chantal Lyche. Keynote speaker was John Goldsmith (University of Chicago). Approximately 40 people participated in this conference.

Workshop on Freedom of Analysis

(September 1-2)

Invited speakers were Chris Golston (California State University Fresno), Marc van Oostendorp (Meertens Institute, Amsterdam), Christian Uffmann (Philipps-Universität Marburg), Bruce Morén (CASTL, Tromsø) and Curt Rice (CASTL, Tromsø). A total of 25 people attended this workshop.

The CASTL Colloquium Series

The CASTL Colloquium series continued throughout 2005 with Thursday evening lectures. These lectures are held by both locals and invited speakers. In 2005, a total of 20 talks were given, 11 by invited speakers.

The numbers

Income	Grant from The Norwegian Research Council	6 703
	Grant from The University of Tromsø	3 789
	Additional grants (from applications)	60
	Incoming balance	3 009
	SUM Income	13 561
Expenses	Labour costs	7 517
	Academic staff	6 935
	Administrative staff	582
	Operational expenses	1 778
	Research assistants	208
	Conferences and workshops	365
	Board meetings	35
	Hiring	80
	Travel	770
	Guest lecturers	137
	Various expenses	183
	Indirect costs	1 311
	SUM Expenses	10 606
	TOTAL	2 955

All numbers in thousand NOK

Comments

According to the budget plan for the first 5-year period, these numbers show the expenditures for 2005, with an incoming balance of an accumulated surplus from 2003 and 2004. CASTL has calculated a surplus in order to cover future expenditures. These expenditures are based on the following calculations:

I) Grants for the centre had full effect for 2003, whereas the start date for new hires was September 1st 2003. Their contracts thus run longer than the grant period. Since the capacity of the centre limits the numbers of new employees, this has partially affected the numbers last year, although not with same effect.

II) Grants do not include compensation for price and wage inflation. In the budget these are set to 4 % and 2 %, in accordance with the recommendations from the Research Council. Parts of the surplus will cover these additional costs.

III) Due to medical absence among employees, parts of the surplus are accumulated to cover future extension of fixed term contracts linked to educational programmes.

IV) Ph.D. students are allowed to spend a certain amount each year covering their project related 'operational costs'. But since it's not given when their expenditures will be realised (based on their individual research plans and progress), some part of the surplus is set aside for future operational costs.

Note: These numbers do not indicate the full scope of CASTL's budget since they do not include aspects of the budget formally administered elsewhere in the Faculty of Humanities. Furthermore, other externally financed projects for which CASTL is responsible – including but not limited to NORMS, a Nordic Centre of Excellence – are also excluded from the numbers above.

CASTL events in 2006

Spring:

Workshop on Inversion and Verb Movement

The workshop is organised within the NCoE project

NORMS in Tromsø

Venue: University of Tromsø

January 30 – 31, 2006.

Jan-Wouter Zwart Lectures

Venue: University of Tromsø

January 30 – February 2

Workshop and Graduate Course in Neurolinguistics

Venue: University of Tromsø

April 18 – 22

Variation and Stability in Grammar

Venue: Nijmegen, The Netherlands

April 24 – 25

When nothing wins: Modelling ungrammaticality in OT

Venue: Gabels hus, Oslo

May 21 – 24

Decomposition

Venue: University of Tromsø

May 26 – 28

Fall:

Workshop on Segmental Structure

Venue: University of Tromsø

Graduate Course on Language Contact

Venue: University of Tromsø

Coming up in 2007

GLOW XXX

April 10 – 14, 2007

Keynote Speaker: Noam Chomsky

CASTL is an excellent
research center in a
picturesque but (sort
of) isolated place ^
which makes it ideal for
research!

*Anthi Revithiadou,
University of the
Aegean*

I was impressed by the
large audience for my
talk. There are lots of
good linguists at CASTL,
and they seem to have
created a very fruitful
working ambiance.

*Jan Terje Faarlund,
University of Oslo*

