

# Dossier **The XI Workshop on Formal Linguistics**<sup>1</sup>

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It is a great honor to preface the dossier of papers presented in **XI Workshop on Formal Linguistics**, held in Curitiba (Paraná-Brazil), at Universidade Federal do Paraná (UFPR), in November, 2016. The history of the Workshops can be read in the other dossiers that were published by *Revista Letras* the journal of the Graduation Program in Letras (PGLET) from UFPR<sup>2</sup>, where Ana Müller and Maria José Foltran, students of Borges Neto, founders of the Workshops, started their academic life. The PGLET from UFPR, *Revista Letras*, and the Workshops created appropriate environment to consolidate the Formal Studies in Brazil, a flourishing field.<sup>3</sup>

From the **First Workshop on Formal Linguistics**, organized by Ana Müller in 2000 at USP (Universidade de São Paulo), where Angelika Kratzer was the key-speaker up to this latest edition in Curitiba, PR, the field has significantly advanced in Brazil and the importance of Brazil to the international community of formal linguists has also grown, as can be attested by both the event and the papers in this dossier. The Workshop is always accompanied by a Linguistic School, where the great names of the field discuss their ongoing researches in mini-courses. The keynote speakers invited since 2000 brought a variety of innovative formal developments and greatly increased the quality of the debates: Angelika Kratzer, Barbara Partee, Irene Heim, Tim Stowell, Lisa

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<sup>2</sup> Foltran (2002), Pires de Oliveira (2006); Foltran (2007a; 2007b).

<sup>3</sup> See Borges Neto *et al* (2012) for the history of Formal Semantics in Brazil.

Selkirk, Kai Von Fintel, Veneeta Dayal, Susan Rothstein, Paul Pietrowski, Yael Sharvit, Christopher Kennedy, and Gregory Carlson, Gennaro Chierchia, and John Beavers are part of the history of the Workshops. Thank you all. The meetings and the Linguistic Schools have provided fertile soil for a considerable amount of works in the field and for fruitful exchanges, fulfilling one of the aims of the Workshops.

The **XI Workshop** invited for the first time a junior researcher, Suzi Lima, a student from USP, whose PhD at University of Massachusetts, Amherst, has introduced Yudja (Juruna, Tupi), a Brazilian indigenous language into the field. Yudja jeopardizes classical views on the mass and count domain, since they count substances (notional mass nouns) without any overt classifier.<sup>4</sup> The theme is important to the Brazilian community because of Brazilian Portuguese and the co-existence of a Bare Singular and a Bare Plural. The importance of the theme is attested not only by international cooperation research projects that discuss the issue – the CAPES-NUFIC,<sup>5</sup> and the CNPq project<sup>6</sup>, for instance –, but also by the *X Workshop on Formal Linguistics*, which invited professor Gennaro Chierchia, who proposes Semantic Parameters. Thus the **XI Workshop** discussed mass and count nouns cross-linguistically with professors Susan Rothstein (University of Bar-Illan, Israel), Suzi Lima (University of Toronto, Canada; Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, Brasil), and Jenny Doetjes (University of Leiden, The Netherlands), prominent names in this debate<sup>7</sup>. Doetjes’ “*Measure words and classifiers*”, in this dossier, is a careful survey of the state of the art which reflects the discussions during the Conference and the Linguistic School. Rothstein’s contribution to this dossier, “*Counting in the verbal domain*”, reinforces her position that the mass and count distinction in the nominal domain has no parallel in the verbal domain – which is a controversial position. Professor Virginia Hill (University of New Brunswick – Canada) has changed the state of the art in syntax by introducing the research on vocatives, speech acts and syntactic theories. In this dossier, “*Vocatives in the Balkans*” revises some issues in her own recent work, proposing new theoretical discussions.<sup>8</sup> Each one of the key speakers was responsible for teaching a mini-course: *Plurality and mass across languages*, by Jenny Doetjes; *Counting and measuring*, by Susan Rothstein; *Conversational pragmatics and syntactic theory*, by Virginia Hill; and *Experimental Semantics*, by Suzi Lima. We are very grateful to them: the courses, the talks, and the discussions are fundamental to our better understanding of natural languages.

During the Conference the organizers opened a call for papers on any topic concerning Formal Linguistics, working with Patrícia Rodrigues who is the chief editor of this volume of *Revista Letras*. We would like to thank

4 See Lima (2014)

5 See Foltran *et al* (2012)

6 See Pires de Oliveira *et al* (2014)

7 See Rothstein (2017), Doetjes (2013), and Lima (2014)

8 See Hill (2014)

her for guiding us in this difficult process of selection. The 10 papers, all of which were presented during the **IX Workshop on Formal Linguistics**, that were selected are organized alphabetically. The interfaces syntax-semantics, semantics-pragmatics, syntax-pragmatics are the topic of most of the papers. The growing importance of the interfaces, in particular of pragmatics, is reflected not only on our Conference but on the papers as well. A greater importance of under-represented languages, and a diversity of methodologies (empirical investigation is gaining more and more importance) are tendencies. The readers will certainly find good linguistic discussion in the papers that compose this dossier. Enjoy it: Beviláqua & Pires de Oliveira, *Brazilian bare nouns in comparatives: experimental evidence for non-contextual dependency*; Di Sciullo & Echevarría, *Time-counting expressions and aspectual complex numerals*; Donazzan, *Italian causatives and the grammar of (in)direct causation*; Giovannetti & Basso, *Demonstrativos, determinantes e definitude em Wapichana*; Monawar & Strey, *The formal and the relevant: modal underspecification and pragmatics disambiguation*; Rodrigues & dal Pozzo, *Whose foot is it? Pronominal Possessives in Pro-drop Languages: An Experimental Study*; Sanchez-Mendes, Ramalho Segala & Nogueira Xavier, *O papel da (re)duplicação na expressão de pluracionalidade em libras*; Roehrig Teixeira & Menuzzi, *Understanding the interaction between demonstrative deixis and descriptive content*; Trebisacce, *En torno a la hipótesis de la relevancia sintáctica del significado télico*; Vignado Nascimento, *A sintaxe e a semântica de expressões numéricas do Karitiana*.

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