

## PREFACE

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The editors would like to make mention here of the aims and objectives of the American Society of Geolinguistics.

The American Society of Geolinguistics was founded in 1965 by Dr. Mario A. Pei, a noted linguist, polygot and Professor of Romance Philology at Columbia University, New York City. Among Dr. Pei's chief objectives was the desire to make linguistics intelligible to the educated non-specialist and to stress the practical importance of linguistics. Geolinguistics, itself, is the study of languages or dialects in the context of their contact with one another.

The Society aims to gather and disseminate up-to-date knowledge concerning the world's present-day languages, their distribution and use, their relative practical importance, their perceived usefulness and actual availability from economic, political and cultural standpoints, their genetic, historical and geographical affiliations and relationships, and their identification and use in spoken and written form. The Society is particularly interested in linguistic geography, languages in contact and conflict, language planning and policy, language education and the broader aspects of sociolinguistics or what might be called "macro-sociolinguistics."

The Society meets several times yearly in New York City. Submissions for its publications are welcomed from members and non-members alike. Articles should be reasonably intelligible to educated non-specialists. All submissions should be in Word for Windows with notes and works cited at the end. Tables and images should be kept small and used sparingly, with the realization that, in the process of producing a final printer's version, tables and images can often not be formatted as the author might have originally designated. Reference should always be made to the latest Internet call for papers for specific requirements.

The Society has in the last 16 years arranged annual international conferences in New York at which scholars have read papers and had opportunities to exchange views. On 23 April 2016, in celebration of the 51st anniversary of the Society's founding, we were privileged to have our second international conference outside of the United States. It took place, as the first one did, in Tokyo at Daito Bunka Kaikan, a facility of Daito Bunka University. Papers from last year's Tokyo conference and previous annual international conferences held in New York City, the traditional venue of the Society, have appeared in the various publications of the Society.

It is to our honor that papers selected by the editors from those read at the 51st anniversary conference in Tokyo and from other complementary submissions, now appear in this first edition of *Plurlingual Perspectives in Geolinguistics*.

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