



*Symposium*

*Language Contact and the Dynamics of Language: Theory and Implications*

[http://www.unice.fr/ChaireIUF-Nicolai/Archives/Symposium/Index\\_Symposium.html](http://www.unice.fr/ChaireIUF-Nicolai/Archives/Symposium/Index_Symposium.html)

10-13 May 2007

*Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology*  
Leipzig

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*Organizing institutions:*

**Institut Universitaire de France : Chair of Dynamics of Language and Language Contact (Nice)**  
and  
**Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology (Leipzig)**

*Organizers:*

*Robert Nicolai, Bernard Comrie*

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**9 May**

17.00 : Arrival of Participants. Informal meeting

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**10 May**

**I. "Contact": an 'obvious fact' ? A notion to be rethought?"**

**11 May**

**II. "Contact, typology and evolution of languages: a perspective to be explored"**

**12 May**

**III. "Representation of the phenomena and the role of descriptors: a perspective to be established"**

**13 May**

**IV. "Emerging research perspectives"**

## Participants.

Peter Bakker	Aarhus University
Cécile Canut	MoDyCo, Montpellier III
Bernard Comrie	MPI-EVA, Leipzig & University of California Santa Barbara
Nick Enfield	Max Planck Institute, Nijmegen
Zygmunt Frajzyngier	University of Colorado, Boulder
Françoise Gadet	Modyco, Paris 10
David Gil	MPI-EVA, Leipzig
Anthony Grant	Edge Hill Lancaster University
Tom Güldemann	MPI-EVA, Leipzig
Martin Haspelmath	MPI-EVA, Leipzig
Bernd Heine	Universität zu Köln
John Holm	University of Coimbra
Tania Kuteva	Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf.
Claire Lefebvre	UQAM - Université du Québec à Montréal
Isabelle Léglise	CELIA, CNRS, Paris
Patrick McConvell	AIATSIS, Canberra
Felicity Meakins	University of Melbourne
Susanne Michaelis	MPI-EVA, Leipzig
Pieter Muysken	Radboud University Nijmegen
Carol Myers-Scotton	Michigan State University
Robert Nicolai	Institut Universitaire de France et Université de Nice
Katja Ploog	Université de Franche-Comté, Besançon
Malcom Ross	The Australian National University Canberra
William Samarin	University of Toronto
Henning Schreiber	University of Frankfurt
Erin Shay	University of Colorado, Boulder
Carmen Silva-Corvalán	University of Southern California
Norval Smith	University of Amsterdam
Andrée Tabouret-Keller	ULP Strasbourg I
Uri Tadmor	MPI-EVA, Leipzig
Sally Thomason	University of Michigan
Mauro Tosco	Istituto Universitario Orientale, Napoli
Donald Winford	Ohio State University
Petr Zima	Charles University of Prague

## Symposium schedule

**9 May**

17.00 : Arrival of Participants. Informal meeting

Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology  
ENTRANCE HALL

**10 May**

**I. "'Contact': an 'obvious fact' ? A notion to be rethought?"**

9.00	Symposium Opening	Bernard Comrie & Robert Nicolai : Presentation	
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9.30	Donald Winford	Ohio State University	Processes of creolization and related contact-induced language change
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**10.30 Coffee**

11.00	Anthony Grant	Edge Hill Lancaster University	Contact-induced change and the openness of "closed" morphological systems: some cases from native America
11.30	Patrick McConvell & Felicity Meakins	AIATSIS, Canberra & University of Melbourne	Mixed languages as outcomes of code-switching: recent examples from Australia and their implications for the past
12.00	Norval Smith	University of Amsterdam	Substrate phonology, superstrate phonology and adstrate phonology in creole languages
12.30	Isabelle Léglise	CELIA, CNRS, Paris	Explaining language contact phenomena in a dynamic synchronic / prospective diachronic perspective: discussion of a methodological frame
13.00 - 13.30	Claire Lefebvre	UQAM - Université du Québec à Montréal	Relabelling : a major process in language contact

**13.45 Lunch**

14.45	Malcom Ross	The Australian National University, Canberra	The history of metatypy in the Bel languages
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**15.15 Coffee**

<p>15.45 – 17.45 <b>Round Table</b></p> <p><b>The importance of ‘contact’ as a linguistic and anthropological phenomenon</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Malcolm Ross</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Theme</b></p> <p>The “creole” debate, the “mixed language” debate, the contact-induced change debate and their broader contexts.</p> <p>These empirically documented and “ideologically” founded debates allow one to illustrate and to question fundamental points regarding our understanding of the evolution of language and of the dynamics of languages: structural homogeneity and heterogeneity of languages (cf. metatypy, convergence and emergence of new languages).</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Don Winford: the creole debate</i>  <i>Anthony Grant: the mixed-language debate</i>  <i>Sally Thomason: the contact-induced change debate</i>  <i>Nick Enfield: the anthropological dimension of contact-induced change</i></p>
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<p>18.00</p> <p>Robert Nicolai &amp; Henning Schreiber</p> <p>Presentation of <i>Journal of Language Contact (JLC)</i> and of the first issue of <i>JLC-THEMA serie:</i></p> <p><i>The Contact: Framing its Theories and Descriptions / Contact : descriptions, théorisations, cadrages</i></p>	<p>Members of the Editorial Board present at the Symposium :</p> <p>Members of the Editorial Board present at the Symposium :  P. Bakker, Kl. Beyer, C. Canut, B. Comrie, Fr. Gadet, B. Heine, I. Léglise, M. Mous, P. Muysken, Carol Myers-Scotton, R. Nicolai, M. Ross, W. Samarin, H. Schreiber, N. Smith, A. Tabouret-Keller, S. Thomason, D. Winford, P. Zima.</p>
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**11 May**

**II. “Contact, typology and evolution of languages: a perspective to be explored”**

9.00	Bernard Comrie	MPI-EVA, Leipzig & University of California Santa Barbara	What does WALS tell us about the diffusion of structural features?
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**10.00 Coffee**

10.30	Peter Bakker	Aarhus University	Rethinking structural diffusion
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11.00	Mauro Tosco	Istituto Universitario Orientale, Napoli	Do we really need linguistic areas?
11.30	Carmen Silva-Corvalán	University of Southern California	The limits of convergence in language contact
12.00	William Samarin	University of Toronto	Convergence and the retention of marked consonants in Pidgin Sango
12.30	Bernd Heine & Tania Kouteva	Universität zu Köln & Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf	Identifying instances of contact-induced grammatical replication
13.00 - 13.30	John Holm	University of Coimbra	Creole typology and substrate typology

### 13.45 Lunch

14h.45	Uri Tadmor	MPI-EVA, Leipzig	Is borrowability borrowable?
15.15	Martin Haspelmath & Uri Tadmor	MPI-EVA, Leipzig	Loanword typology: the cross-linguistic study of lexical borrowability

### 15.45 Coffee

<p>16.00 – 18.00 <b>Round table:</b></p> <p><b>Typology of the emergence of new languages and discussion of what is constructed by 'typology'</b></p> <p><i>Chair: Martin Haspelmath</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Theme</b></p> <p>Results of language contact seen from a broad comparative perspective; linguistic areas at a local, continental and a global scale; different "diffusibility" or "areal stability" of different linguistic features; the role of a language's structural type in facilitating or rejecting structural influence; the relation between grammatical and lexical borrowing; cross-linguistic comparability of language contact as a basis for typological language-contact databases; the possibility of quantifying contact influence, both within a language and in a large language sample.</p> <p><i>Bernd Heine, Tom Güldemann, David Gil, Martin Haspelmath</i></p>
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<p>18.00</p> <p>Suzanne Michaelis</p> <p>Presentation of <b>The Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Language Structures</b> (APiCS)</p>	<p>Editors: Susanne Michaelis, Philippe Maurer, Magnus Huber, Martin Haspelmath.</p> <p><a href="http://email.eva.mpg.de/~michaels/apics/index.html">http://email.eva.mpg.de/~michaels/apics/index.html</a></p>
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12 May

III. "Representation of the phenomena and the role of descriptors: a perspective to be established"

9.00	Robert Nicolai	Institut Universitaire de France & Université de Nice	Dynamique du langage et élaboration des langues : quelques défis à relever
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10.00 Coffee

10.30	Zygmunt Frajzyngier & Erin Shay	University of Colorado, Boulder	Language-internal versus contact-induced change: the case of split coding of person and number. a Stefan Elders' question
11.00	Carol Myers-Scotton	Michigan State University	Testing the 4-M Model with Contact Data
11.30	Pieter Muysken	Radboud University Nijmegen	Out of the raritätenkabinett? An evidence-based approach to language contact studies.
12.00	Sally Thomason	University of Michigan	Social vs. linguistic factors as predictors of contact-induced change
12.30	Petr Zima	Charles University of Prague	Contact of speakers and interference of languages
13.00 - 13.30	Cécile Canut	(MoDyCo, CNRS) & LaciS, Montpellier III	Parole et Agencements

13.45 Lunch

14.45	Nick Enfield	Max Planck Institute, Nijmegen	Epidemiology as a model for the dynamics of language
15.15	Andrée Tabouret-Keller	ULP Strasbourg I	Langues en contact : persistance et intérêt d'une métaphore
15.45	Françoise Gadet	Modyco, Paris 10	Variation and contact in French spoken outside France

16.15 Coffee

16.30 - 18.45 Round Table:	<b>Theme</b> <i>Françoise Gadet, Patrick McConnell, Carol Myers-Scotton, Robert Nicolai, Katja Ploog, Andrée Tabouret-Keller, Sally Thomason, Mauro Tosco, Don Winford.</i>		
<b>Theorizations, models, metaphors, representations and attempts at (re)conceptualization</b>	In connection with the double requirement of theoretical reflection and empirical underpinning, the aim is to develop an epistemological reflection on the elaboration of knowledge in		

*Chair: Robert Nicolai*

this domain.

- Role of metaphor and phenomena in the construction of representations (reference to “‘explanatory’ paradigms”: evolutionary, complex, ecological, structuralist, essentialist, cognitivist).

- Role of variation, construction of norms, processes of semiotization, retention of historicity in the dynamics of the transformation of languages facing language-contact and language homogeneity construction.

*Françoise Gadet: Adjustements between speakers*  
*Carol Myers-Scotton: metaphorisation and modelisation*  
*Robert Nicolai: Possibility and probability*

**20.00 Dinner**

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**13 May**

**IV. “Emerging research perspectives”**

9.30

**Round Table:**

**Theoretical and methodological questions and synthesis**

**10.30 Coffee**

11.00	Forecasting: Publication project. Next Symposium, etc.
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**12.00 Closing**

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