Diversity and Universals Research Profile, Activities Report 2015

The profile was led, as it has been since 2012, by:

- Christiane Andersen (German)
- Laura Downing (African languages)
- Mats Mobärg (English)

Around 35 members of SPL have attended at least one event organized by the profile in 2015. A core group of around 10 people attend events regularly.

Our main regular activity is to organize GRAM:SEM colloquia in cooperation with the Swedish department. The seminars provide a forum for the presentation of relevant research both by PhD students and by more senior researchers, representing all language areas of SPL. Guests of SPL also regularly present in this forum. The number of participants at the colloquia is 5-20, depending on the topic and the speaker.

GRAM:SEM talks organized by the profile in VT2015:

- Heike Havermeier’s Slutseminarium, Codeswitching an der Universität.
- Thomas Lindkvist, förberedande seminaria (x2), Germanerna (by Tore Janson).
- Rasmus Bernander and Morgan Nilsson, Practice talks for ACAL 46.
- Tore Janson (GU emeritus), Vad vet vi om det tidigaste germanska språket och dess talare?
- Christiane Andersen and Ingmar Söhrman, Språk och identitet.
- Rasmus Bernander’s halvtidsseminarium, A panchronic study of some TAM auxiliaries in Manda.
- Tove Rosendal, Code-switching among the Ngoni in Tanzania
- Eva-Marie Bloom-Ström, Variation in Xhosa focus constructions

GRAM:SEM talks organized by the profile in HT2015:

- Prof. Henry Muzale (UDSM), Tone as a Tense-Aspect-Modality Marker in Bantu languages: the case of Present Tense in (Ru)Haya
- Prof. Stefan Dollinger, Border effects and contiguous language varieties: the case of Canada and the U.S.
- Rickard Ramhöj’s Slutseminarium, Clausal subjects and extraposition in the history of English
- Sara Lindbladh’s Doktorandseminarium, Betydelse och funktion hos de italienska diskursmarkörerna bene, va bene, be’ och va be’
- María Landa Buil (Director, ELE USAL (Barcelona)), The Determinant Phrase in the Spanish Interlanguage of Native Speakers of Swahili

We also are regularly involved in organizing the annual Grammatik Festivalen, in cooperation with the Swedish department, FLoV and Pedagogen. In 2015, Rickard Ramhöj and Evie Coussé presented at the Festival; Tore Janson was a plenary speaker (as
a guest of our profile); and Laura Downing was involved in organization, along with Evie Coussé. The event was filmed by the UR television channel.

We organized two international workshops:
- ”Tense-Aspect”, 27-28 April 2015, invited speakers: Lotta Aunio (Helsinki) and Thera Crane (Helsinki)
- ”Morphological Borrowing”, 10 - 11 December 2015, invited speaker: Maarten Kossman (Leiden)

Two research project applications by profile members were awarded funding in 2015:
- Malin Petzell’s RJ project, En jämförande studie av verbmorfoligins semantik i centraltanzaniska bantuspråk
- Laura Downing and Morgan Nilsson’s VR project, Somali and prosodic typology