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Proceedings of the North East Linguistic Society 23

University of Ottawa

volume one

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PREFACE

The NELS 23 Organizing Committee (Marc Authier, Yoko Harada, John Jensen, and Lisa Reed) gratefully acknowledges the services of the following scholars in evaluating the abstracts submitted:

Stephen Anderson, Mark Aronoff, Joseph Aoun, C.L. Baker, Mark Baker, Andrew Barss, Edwin Battistella, Hagit Borer, Aaron Broadwell, M.A. Browning, Vicki Carstens, Heles Contreras, Elizabeth Cowper, Peter Culicover, Lisa de Mena Travis, Elan Dresher, Samuel David Epstein, Donka Farkas, Steven Franks, Lyn Frazier, John Goldsmith, Grant Goodall, Helen Goodluck, Eithne Guilfoyle, Randall Hendrick, James Higginbotham, James Huang, Elizabeth Hume, Sabine Iatridou, Alana Johns, Ellen Kaisse, Angelika Kratzer, Marie Labelle, Bill Ladusaw, Steven Lapointe, Peter Lasersohn, Anne Lobeck, Alec Marantz, Diane Massam, Cecile McKee, M.A. Mohammad, Janet Nicol, Carole Paradis, Barbara Partee, Jeff Pelletier, David Pesetsky, Stanley Peters, Ljiljana Progovac, Jean-François Prunet, Eduardo Raposo, Keren Rice, Anne Rochette, Ivan Sag, Mamoru Saito, Leslie Saxon, Barry Schein, Peter Sells, Patricia Shaw, Muffy Siegel, Peggy Speas, Margaret Stong-Jensen, Margarita Suárez, Christine Tellier, José Tourville, Tom Wasow, Amy Weinberg, Edwin Williams, and Karen Zagona.

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A Brief History of the North East Linguistic Society (NELS)

John Jensen and Lisa Reed

The North East Linguistic Society, originally known as the New England Linguistic Society, held its first meeting at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) on November 7th, 8th, and 9th, 1970. The original meeting of NELS attracted not only the expected audience from the northeastern United States, but also an unexpectedly large number of participants from eastern Canada. For this reason, at the business meeting of NELS 1, Professor David Lightfoot (at that time a professor of linguistics at McGill University) made the proposal that the conference expand the geographical range of hosting institutions to include eastern Canada. This proposal was immediately accepted and accounts for the change in title of the conference. Since NELS 1 in 1970, NELS has further expanded the geographical pool of its participants, although the traditional geographical base for hosting institutions has remained unchanged. NELS now annually draws speakers and participants from the entire United States, Canada, and Europe. It has been hosted by the following institutions, listed in chronological order:

NELS 1	(1970)	MIT
NELS 2	(1971)	McGill University
NELS 3	(1972)	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NELS 4	(1973)	Brown University
NELS 5	(1974)	Harvard University
NELS 6	(1975)	Université du Québec à Montréal
NELS 7	(1976)	MIT
NELS 8	(1977)	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NELS 9	(1978)	City University of New York
NELS 10	(1979)	University of Ottawa
NELS 11	(1980)	Cornell University
NELS 12	(1981)	MIT
NELS 13	(1982)	Université du Québec à Montréal
NELS 14	(1983)	University of Massachusetts, Amherst
NELS 15	(1984)	Brown University
NELS 16	(1985)	McGill University
NELS 17	(1986)	MIT
NELS 18	(1987)	University of Toronto
NELS 19	(1988)	Cornell University
NELS 20	(1989)	University of Pittsburgh
NELS 21	(1990)	Université du Québec à Montréal
NELS 22	(1991)	University of Delaware
NELS 23	(1992)	University of Ottawa
NELS 24	(1993)	University of Massachusetts, Amherst

NELS has always been and remains the most prestigious conference in theoretical linguistics hosted in its geographical area and it is among the most highly respected in the field at large. (Conferences in theoretical linguistics of comparable quality, hosted in different geographical areas, include the Chicago Linguistics Society, the West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL), and the Generative Linguists of the Old World (GLOW).) The papers presented at NELS are of a consistently high calibre, not only because of the large number of abstracts received (generally over 200, from which only 15% are selected), but also because of the anonymous reviewing procedure employed (leading figures in the field are asked to conduct the reviewing process). The papers presented at NELS have appeared in published form since NELS 5, and are frequently cited in refereed journals of the field. Since NELS 11, the proceedings have been published by the Graduate Linguistic Student Association at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

From its beginning, NELS has been organized by the Linguistic graduate students association of the hosting institution, although one or two faculty members from the department frequently lend assistance. As a result, every effort is made by the organizing committee to insure that a significant number of speakers are graduate students. This tradition has been maintained principally because it provides graduate students who are relatively new to the field with a unique opportunity to meet and discuss their work with established researchers from other universities.

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