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Front Matter

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PREFACE

The organizers of NELS 31, the thirty-first meeting of the North East Linguistic Society, would like to thank each and everyone who participated in making the conference a successful one. We would like to express our gratitude to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences and Deans Joseph Serene and Gerald Mara for financial support; the Faculty of Languages and Linguistics and Sara Hager for their financial support; the chair of the Department of Linguistics, Jeff Connor-Linton, for financial as well as moral support. We thank the keynote speakers, Gennaro Chierchia, Junko Ito, and Howard Lasnik, and also the participants of the roundtable and workshop for their great talks. Our special thanks go to the faculty members, Ralph Fasold, Elena Herburger, Paul Portner, Raffaella Zanuttini, and Elizabeth Zsiga, without whom this conference could not have happened. Their input and help were immense and invaluable in every aspect. We thank the administrative staff of the department for clerical assistance, and everyone who participated in the organization, especially those who helped with the conference program, packet, facility, advertisement, accommodation, T-shirt sales, book-exhibit and web-management. The organizers of NELS 31 greatly enjoyed hosting the conference and took pleasure in every step of it.

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The following presenters did not submit papers for publication:

Gennaro Chierchia
Paolo Chinellato
Martin Hackl
Junko Ito and Armin Mester
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A Brief History of NELS

by 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 25	(1994)	University of Pennsylvania

NELS 26	(1995)	Harvard University and MIT
NELS 27	(1996)	McGill University
NELS 28	(1997)	University of Toronto
NELS 29	(1998)	University of Delaware
NELS 30	(1999)	Rutgers University
NELS 31	(2000)	Georgetown University

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 Linguistic 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 referred 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 in the field with a unique opportunity to meet and discuss their work with established researchers from other universities.

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