Melbourne 2020: Discourse-Pragmatic Variation and Change

https://www.dipvac.org/conference-series.html

University of Melbourne (Parkville campus), Australia
3-5 June 2020.

DiPVaC is a biennial international conference series showcasing cutting-edge research into quantitative approaches to variation and change in what are broadly termed 'discourse-pragmatic features': this includes (but is not limited to) research on discourse markers or pragmatic particles whose primary functions are interpersonal and textual (e.g. well, like, you know, comme, alors, doch, zwar, diciamo, dakedo, etc.); tag questions; silence; filled pauses; adjectives; adverbs; and general extenders.

The conference builds on an extensive international research network (see www.dipvac.org) and a track record of profiling the latest research in discourse-pragmatic variation and change in a wide variety of languages. It also provides a forum for the discussion of methodological, empirical and theoretical advancements in the analysis of variation and change in the use of discourse-pragmatic features; opportunities for the examination of the social implications and applications of research into the use of these features; and the formation of new international and multidisciplinary research networks.

Abstracts are welcomed for oral presentations which take a quantitative approach to data analysis and deal with diverse aspects of discourse-pragmatic variation and change in any language or variety. This is the first time the conference will take place in the Asia-Pacific region; and as such, research on the following is particularly encouraged: discourse-pragmatic variation and change in contexts of language contact; patterns of discourse-pragmatic variation and change in minority and/or under-described languages; the acquisition of discourse-pragmatic variation by second language learners and bilingual speakers.

We welcome papers dealing with, but not restricted to, the following topics:
- sociolinguistic patterns of discourse-pragmatic variation and change;
- discourse-pragmatic variation and change in contexts of language contact;

- quantitative studies addressing the grammaticalization of discourse-pragmatic features;
- contrastive/cross-linguistic studies of discourse-pragmatic variation and change;
- methods in the quantitative analysis of discourse-pragmatic features; social and geographical diffusion patterns of innovative discourse features;
- discourse-pragmatic features in the construction and negotiation of social identities;
- acquisition of discourse-pragmatic variation by children, L2 learners and bilingual speakers;
- discourse-pragmatic variation and change across the lifespan; socio-perceptual studies of discourse-pragmatic variation;
- discourse-pragmatic variation across interactional, situational and technological settings;
- implications and applications of discourse-pragmatic variation and change within and beyond linguistic theory.

Confirmed plenary speakers are:

- Derek Denis (University of Toronto Mississauga, Canada)
- Janet Holmes (Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand)
- Ilana Mushin (The University of Queensland, Australia)
- Celeste Rodríguez Louro (The University of Western Australia)
- Lesley Stirling (The University of Melbourne, Australia)

With a special workshop on The acquisition of discourse-pragmatic variation led by Alexandra D'Arcy (University of Victoria, Canada)