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Authors

Strauss, Susan
Kreuter, Betsy

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Editorial

An East Asian Perspective

During the last fifteen years, Southern California has become a center for East Asian studies. Today, universities such as UCLA offer interdepartmental programs for East Asian linguistic studies which combine discourse/functional linguistics and work from other departments such as Applied Linguistics, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Linguistics, Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, and Education. Such diverse interest in East Asian language, culture, and interaction inspired us to publish a special thematic issue of *IAL* addressing this growing field.

Approximately one year ago, in response to our call for papers, we received over 40 manuscripts from a variety of disciplines. The authors represented several countries including the United States, Taiwan, Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, Puerto Rico, and the United Kingdom. The rigorous review process involving a large number of reviewers, all experts in the field, led to the selection of the eight papers printed here. This issue also revives an old *IAL* tradition by including interviews with leading scholars in the field. For this issue, the linguists were all interviewed by Ph.D. students deeply interested in the scholars' work and seeking answers to specific questions or problems. These interviews provide a rare perspective on each researcher's past and current theories and the motivations and inspiration behind them. Rounding out the issue are book reviews, all on current topics in the field.

The number of participants involved in putting together this special issue, from the initial interest generated by the call for papers to the final proofreading done by an unprecedented number of *IAL* assistants, reflects the growing interest in applied linguistics from an East Asian perspective.

In September of this year, the field lost one of its founding scholars, John Hinds. In his memory, we have dedicated this special issue to him, with a memorial essay by his colleague and friend, Shoichi Iwasaki.

December 1994

Susan Strauss and Betsy Kreuter

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