



University of Birmingham



## **Birmingham English Language Postgraduate Virtual Conference**

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021, via Zoom

**Open to ALL postgraduates in the Department of English Language and Linguistics at the University of Birmingham**

The Department of English Language and Linguistics at the University of Birmingham hosts an annual conference for its postgraduate students, organised by the department's PG Tips, an inclusive group of PG students run by PG students for PG students.

#BELP2021

### **CALL FOR PAPERS**

We are pleased to invite all postgraduate students (research and taught) in English Language and Applied Linguistics to attend the Birmingham English Language Postgraduate Virtual Conference 2021 (BELP2021) to be hosted by the University of Birmingham via Zoom on Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021.

We are accepting abstract submissions for BELP 2021 from Monday 7<sup>th</sup> December 2020. We welcome contributions that are relevant to the study of English Language and Applied Linguistics, whether theoretical or methodological.

Possible areas of research include (by are by no means limited to):

- Corpus Linguistics
- Psycholinguistics
- Cognitive Linguistics
- Sociolinguistics
- Stylistics
- TEFL (Teaching English as a Foreign Language)
- Historical Linguistics
- Grammar
- Critical Discourse Analysis
- Sign Languages
- Gesture and Multimodality
- Language Evolution

We have an inclusive approach to selecting abstracts that explore various areas in the field of English Language and Linguistics and related disciplines (such as Sociology, Education, Psychology). Students on Taught and Research Postgraduate Courses are encouraged to apply.

# SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

**Abstract submission deadline:** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Notification of acceptance:** by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

Oral presentations will be 20 minutes plus 10 minutes for questions and discussion.

Posters will be displayed online during the conference that delegates can visit at any time. Structured poster discussion sessions will run during the lunch break.

All submissions for presentations and posters should follow the following abstract guidelines:

- The abstract should be written in English. The research itself can be about the English language, other spoken languages, or signed languages.
- Abstracts should not exceed 500 words, including examples, and excluding figures and references.
- In your abstract you should include reference to your research questions, approach, method, data and (expected) results.
- Include 5 keywords.
- Please do not mention the author's name, institution or address in the abstract.

In the submission form, you will be asked to indicate your:

1. Name of author(s)
2. Affiliation
3. Name and contact of corresponding author
4. Title of abstract
5. Main body of abstract

We suggest authors draft their abstracts in a word processor and then copy and paste the abstract text into the form when ready to submit to avoid any technical issues.

**Submitting multiple papers:** In order to encourage diversity and inclusivity, delegates can present at most one talk as a single or first author, but there is no restriction on co-authored papers.

**Panel discussion.** We welcome delegates to apply to be a part of the panel at the panel discussion on *Progressing research during COVID*. Indicate your interest in the panellist application form and state your reason for applying and your experience on the topic in up to 300 words.

All abstracts will undergo a double-blind review by two members of the Review Panel.

## CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

We are actively seeking students willing to assist in the conference organisation and abstract reviewing process.

The following roles are open to volunteers, and will be supported by the organisers Stephen Appleton and Samantha Ford:

- **Abstracts Review Panel** – Review abstracts for acceptance
- **Host/Chair** – Assist with hosting and/or chairing conference Zoom sessions
- **Media Coordinator** – Manage PG Tips Twitter/Facebook accounts and spread the word about the conference
- **Social Events Coordinator** – Co-design and chair social events at the conference

Additional training required for the roles is being arranged. PG Tips will be running a series of sessions on reviewing papers, designing and giving virtual presentations, and more.

Please send an email to Stephen Appleton [SAA777@student.bham.ac.uk](mailto:SAA777@student.bham.ac.uk) or Samantha Ford [SXF484@student.bham.ac.uk](mailto: SXF484@student.bham.ac.uk) with your reasons for interest and experience for the role to apply.

## REGISTRATION

All delegates are kindly asked to register via the conference website by Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021. Simply click 'registration' and complete the form.

The conference is free to attend.

## KEY DATES

**Abstract submission deadline:** Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021

**Notification of acceptance:** by Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Programme announced:** Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021

**Registration deadline:** by Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2021

**Conference:** Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2021

Please send any enquiries to the organising committee: Stephen Appleton [SAA777@student.bham.ac.uk](mailto:SAA777@student.bham.ac.uk) and Samantha Ford [SXF484@student.bham.ac.uk](mailto: SXF484@student.bham.ac.uk).

## FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

### **I am not staying in the UK. What time is the conference for me?**

Please consult a [Time Zone Converter](#) to find out what time the conference will be running local to you.

### **What happens if I cannot give a live presentation?**

All efforts will be made to ensure that delegates presenting from outside the UK can do so at a time that is convenient for them as part of the conference programme. However, we are currently investigating the possibility of streaming pre-recorded talks during the conference for those who cannot present their presentation live. Please refer back here later for more updates.

### **Am I allowed to co-present with someone else?**

Yes, you can co-present multiple papers, but you can only present at most one talk as a single or first author.

### **What online platform will you be using?**

The conference's virtual platform will be Zoom ([www.zoom.us](http://www.zoom.us)). A programme with relevant Zoom links will be provided to all delegates by Monday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

### **I don't know how to use Zoom. What do I do? – Contact us**

Not to worry. Please contact us if you have not used Zoom before and we will try our best to assist you. If you are not sure about presenting with Zoom, there will be opportunities made available for you to try out this process with a member of the Conference Committee. Please refer back here later for more updates.

### **Will talks be recorded and later made available?**

We are currently investigating whether talks can be recorded and be made available during and after the conference. Please refer back here for more updates.

### **What about social activities?**

There will be multiple 'coffee' breaks throughout the day with dedicated Zoom 'rooms' in which networking can take place. We encourage you to come along to these to get to know other delegates and discuss your research. The conference day will culminate in a social event. Everyone is invited to attend this social event. Please refer back here for more details later.

### **I have an accepted oral presentation. What does this mean for me?**

We will provide more explicit instructions closer to the conference when you receive your acceptance notification. For now, presentations will be 20 minutes with 10 minutes for questions and discussion. The chair of the session will provide time prompts so that we can maintain a fair schedule for all presenters.

**I have an accepted poster presentation. What does this mean for me?**

We will provide more explicit instructions closer to the conference when you receive your acceptance notification. For now, posters will be displayed online during the conference where delegates can view them at any time. Poster discussion sessions will take place during the lunch break in a dedicated Zoom 'room'.