



CASLA research highlights 2013

Seven members of the CASLA group and two officers of the university's Conference Bureau, chaired by Folkert Kuiken, organized the 2013 annual conference of EUROSLA, the European Second Language Association, which was held in Amsterdam 27-31 August 2013. The conference, which was attended by just over 400 participants from all over the world and a comprised approximately 350 presentations, was opened by Pieter Hilhorst, Alderperson Amsterdam City Council, and Prof. Dr. Louise Gunning-Schepers, President of the Executive Board of the UvA.

The conference was preceded by the Doctoral Workshop and the Language Learning Round Table, entitled 'Acquisition orders in SLA: Perspectives from Emergentism and Dynamic Systems' (convener Jan Hulstijn). Invited speakers were William O'Grady (University of Hawai'i at Manoa), Wander Lowie & Marjolein Verspoor (University of Groningen); discussants are Christine Dimroth (University of Osnabrück) and Manfred Pienemann (University of Paderborn, and Newcastle University). Four plenary speakers were invited at the conference: Alison Mackey (Georgetown University, and Lancaster University), Marianne Nikolov (University of Pécs), Pavel Trofimovich (Concordia University Montreal) and Rens Bod (University of Amsterdam).

Together with Richard Young (University of Wisconsin-Madison), Jan Hulstijn organized a colloquium on *Cognitive and Social Approaches to Research in Second Language Learning and Teaching* at the 2013 conference of the American Association for Applied Linguistics (Dallas, Texas). Invited by the editor of the journal *Studies of Second Language Acquisition*, the nine participants in this colloquium wrote an article, which went online in March 2014, with Jan Hulstijn, Richard Young and Lourdes Ortega as editors.

Together with John Norris (Georgetown University) and Steven Ross (University of Maryland), Rob Schoonen organized a conference on *Improving Quantitative Reasoning in Second Language Research*. The proceedings of this conference will be published as a special issue of *Language Learning*.

In February Folkert Kuiken organized a Symposium on Multilingualism at the Ninth Amsterdam Language Conference.

At the AVT/ANÉLA Taalgala Elisabeth van der Linden and Folkert Kuiken were awarded the LOT Populariseringsprijs for their book on bilingual education, entitled "Het succes van tweetalig opvoeden. Gids voor ouders en opvoeders" (published in 2012 by Acco, Leuven/Den Haag).

Folkert Kuiken and Ineke Vedder edited a special issue of the journal *Language Testing*, entitled 'Assessing oral and written L2 performance: Raters' decisions, rating procedures and rating scales', which will be published in August 2014,

A paper by Nomi Olsthoorn, Sible Andringa and Jan Hulstijn appeared at the *International journal of bilingualism*. The study investigated verbal working memory capacity in native and non-native speakers. One of the conclusions: "The fact that all differences between native and non-native speakers disappeared when linguistic proficiency was taken into account is telling. It suggests that even with such overlearned and abstract stimuli as digits, the phonological-loop capacity, measured with a digit-span task, reflects, at least partly, familiarity with (proficiency in) the language. As such, our results are corroborative of MacDonald and Christiansen's (2002) claim that verbal WM equals one's amount of experience with comprehension processes in a particular language."