

Joan A. Argente is Professor of General Linguistics and Chair at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, and President of the Philology Section of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans. He has served on several editorial boards and has been the editor of a Catalan Journal on Language Sciences. Joan A. Argente has published many papers on Catalan, Galician and General Linguistics and Sociolinguistics. His research concerns in the past range across the fields of syntax and grammatical theory, poetics, and language contact in its socio-cultural context, and he has dealt, among others, with topics in Catalan and Romance syntax and the syntax/semantics relationship, the linguistic basis of poetic structures, and the re-structuring of verbal repertoire in language maintenance/shift processes. As a member of the Institut d'Estudis Catalans he has been involved in work on corpus planning for Catalan.

Joan A. Argente is an associated member of the International Center for the Study of Multilingualism (Brussels) and a member of the New York Academy of Sciences.

Sergio Balari holds a Ph.D. degree in Philosophy (Hispanic Philology) from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. Since September 1993 he is a Professor of General Linguistics in the same university. From 1987 until 1991 he was a member of the Spanish team in the EUROTRA (machine translation project).

His main research topics move between Computational Linguistics and Grammar Theory. As a member of the EUROTRA Project, Sergio Balari worked in several areas both theoretical and applied, of natural language processing in the framework of unification-based grammar formalisms. We can emphasize his participation in the design of the Constraint Logic Grammar formalism, whose latter versions have been adopted as a standard in some European Union Projects.

During 1991 and 1992 he was a researcher at the University of the Saarland in Saarbruecken (Germany). His stay was financed by a CIRIT scholarship. During this period he wrote his Ph.D. thesis about the agreement relations in unification-based formalisms, supervised by Prof. Hans Uszkoreit and Prof. Josep Maria Brucart.

Sergio Balari has continued his research both on the theoretical and applied aspects of language processing and grammatical theory. We can point out his participation as a coordinator (jointly with Josep Maria Brucart) of the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona team in the European Project LATESLAV for the development of advanced grammar checkers and his participation as editor and author in the book *Romance in HPSG*.

Dominique Cardebat is a linguist; she obtained her Ph.D. at the University of Toulouse Le Mirail and has been working, for 10 years, as a Senior Scientist in an INSERM (Institut National de la Santé et de la Recherche Médicale) unit that is localized in the department of Neurology of Toulouse University Hospital (Purpan Hospital). Her main topic of interest is psycholinguistics processes in brain-damaged patients, especially at the lexical semantic level. Her works consist in a two-fold approach combining cognitive neuropsychology and functional neuroimaging.

Mary Louise Kean is Professor in the Department of Cognitive Sciences at the University of California at Irvine. She received a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 1975, and has been a Research Fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics (Nijmegen, 1980-1987). She has been elected a member of the Academia Rodinensis pro Remediatione (1988) and of the Academy of Aphasia (1994). Her research work is focused on the linguistic theory —especially the theory of markedness—, and on the linguistic interpretation of aphasic syndromes— especially agrammatism. She is the author of the *Theory of Markedness in Generative Grammar* (1980), and many professional articles; has been the editor of *Agrammatism* (1985), and co-editor of *Amsterdam-Nijmegen Test voor Alledagse Taalvaardigheid*.

Loraine K. Obler is a Distinguished Professor in the Program in Speech and Hearing Sciences at the Graduate School of the City University of New York. She received her Doctorate in Linguistics from the University of Michigan and an Honorary Doctorate from Stockholm University. Her areas of research interest have been: language in healthy aging and dementia, neurolinguistics of bilingualism, cross-language studies of morphological impairment in agrammatism, and dyslexia. These are reflected in a number of the books she has written or edited which include:

Albert, M. L. and Obler, L.K., *The Bilingual Brain: Neuropsychological and Neurolinguistic Aspects of Bilingualism*. New York: Academic Press, 1978.

Obler, L. K. and Albert, M. L., Eds. *Language and Communication in the Elderly: Clinical, Therapeutic, and Experimental Aspects*. Lexington, Massachusetts: D. C. Health and Co., 1980.

Obler, L. and Fein, D., Eds. *The Exceptional Brain: Neuropsychology of Talent and Special Abilities*. New York: Guilford, 1988.

Hyltenstam, K. and Obler, L., Eds., *Bilingualism Across the Lifespan: Acquisition, Maturing, and Loss*. Cambridge University Press, 1989.

Menn, L. and Obler, L., Eds., *Agrammatic Aphasia: A Cross-Language Narrative Sourcebook*. Amsterdam: Benjamin, 3 Vols., 1990.

Michel Paradis is Professor of Neurolinguistics and Chair, Department of Linguistics, McGill University, Montreal. He received a Ph.D. in Philosophy (McGill U.) and a Ph.D. in Neurolinguistics (U. de Montreal), and is Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He is the author of *The Assessment of Bilingual Aphasia*, available in Spanish as *Evaluación de la afasia en los bilingües* (Barcelona: Masson, 1993), and of *The Bilingual Aphasia Test* which is currently available in over 60 languages (Lawrence Erlbaum Associates). He has been engaged in research on neurolinguistic aspects of bilingualism for the past 20 years and is currently investigating the neural bases of simultaneous translation.

Jordi Peña i Casanova holds a degree in Medicine and Surgery from the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and a MD from the Universidad de Navarra. He studied Neurology with Prof. L. Barraquer-Bordas and at the Hospital de Bellvitge. As a medical student he was already very interested in Neuropsychology and the Behavioral Neurology. He also studied the Russian language and translated "Neurolinguistics" by A.R. Luria into Spanish. He got a scholarship from the French government to work at the Hôpital de la Salpêtrière (Prof. Lhermitte and Signoret) (1975). From 1980 he works as attending physician at the Institut Municipal d'Assistència Sanitària (Hospital del Mar and Centre Geriàtric). He is also an associated professor at the Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona. He has developed and validated a methodology of Neuropsychological Assessment, the Barcelona Test (1980-1996). He has published eight books. Among them: A textbook of Neuropsychology, a handbook of Logopedia and a book about the rehabilitation of aphasia. He has published more than forty articles in journals like: *Revista de Neurologia*, *Revue Neurologique*, *Brain and language*, *Aphasiology*, *The Clinical Neuropsychologist*, *The Journal of Neurolinguistics*. Currently he works on the reading and writing disorders (in an international project) and Alzheimer's disease (methods of diagnosis and pharmacological treatment). He is a member of several professional societies like the *Societat Catalana de Neurologia*, *Sociedad Española de Neurologia*, *Société de Neuropsychologie de Langue Française*, the *International Neuropsychological Society*, the *European Society of Neurology* and the *Societat Catalana de Neuropsicologia*.

Friedemann Pulvermüller is Heisenberg-fellow at the Institute of Medical Psychology and Behavioral Neurobiology of the Universität Tübingen. His work focuses on the neurobiology of language, in particular the questions of how phonemes, syllables, words, syntactic categories, and sentence structures are represented and processed in the human brain. In addition, he has done work on related topics in cognitive neuroscience, in particular on visual form perception, and on therapy of neuropsychological syndromes. His books *Aphasische Kommunikation* and *Neurobiologie der Sprache* appeared in 1990 and 1996, respectively.

Núria Sebastian is Professor of Basic Psychology at the Universitat de Barcelona. Her research focuses on the mechanisms of perception, production and acquisition of speech and in the mechanisms from which the phonological characteristics of each language depends on. She is in charge of a quality research group in the Universitat de Barcelona, and collaborates with numerous research groups, among them we can emphasize the one with the Laboratoire de Sciences Cognitives et Psycholinguistique (LSCP) of the Centre National de la Recherche Scientifique (CNRS, Paris) and with the Institute Max-Planck of Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen (The Netherlands). The scientific methods she uses include the behavioral types as well as mental imagery (PET scan and Evoked Related Potentials (ERPs)). Recently her research group has begun the first laboratory on acquisition of language in babies in the country.