

## Notice

Biolinguistics Editorial Team\*

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Another year is coming to an end, and so is another volume of *Biolinguistics*—volume 15. While we were only able to publish a small number of pieces in 2021, a fair number of submissions are still undergoing reviews or are being revised. On top of that, much of this year was spent preparing exciting changes to come in the new year and other outreach activities.

For example, I (Grohmann) just “returned” from Beijing, where the 5<sup>th</sup> *International Conference on Biolinguistics* was held (ok, it was online: December 25–26). ICB 5 was jointly organized by two journals, *Cognitive Linguistic Studies* and us here at *Biolinguistics*, under the auspices of the School of Foreign Languages from Beijing Institute of Technology, co-sponsored by the *Journal of Beijing International Studies University*. We are certainly open to do more such collaborative event formats in the future (though it need not necessarily be over Christmas).

A large chunk of our time was also dedicated to further improvements, in parts following up on what we started last year already. With our involvement in the Free Journal Network (*Biolinguistics* Associate Editor Patrick C. Trettenbrein was elected in 2020 to the FJN Board of Directors), we carry on contributing to worldwide efforts to strengthen diamond/platinum open access journals. With continued funding, standards for FJN membership will steadily be increased, with two main points in the future being the provision of DOIs and a solid archiving policy. *Biolinguistics* will be poised for these eventualities thanks to our second major administrative development this year.

As it happens, the biggest and most tangible change for *Biolinguistics* will be a new hosting service for the journal. We will keep running on open-access journal software (OJS/PKP). But very soon, we will be integrated into PsychOpen GOLD, the European open-access publishing platform for psychology. Once this transition is completed, *Biolinguistics* will be run on a state-of-the-art architecture which includes DOIs, indexing, a modern journal system, and more. Not only will this meet all of FJN’s requirements but it should also attract more submissions as DOIs will give the journal increased visibility and accessibility. We are grateful to PsychOpen GOLD that our journal was selected to be hosted, and thereby funded, in their growing repertoire. The transition will affect some of the database information, but we will announce details in due time to all users of *Biolinguistics*.

To return to publication-related numbers, *Biolinguistics* received almost 50 *bona fide* submissions, not counting a large number of fake submissions which we hope to exclude more easily with the new platform. Still, most of these were completely irrelevant, dealing mostly with literary studies, and resulted in 42 desk rejections. Only counting (bio)linguistically oriented submissions, three papers were rejected after review, two submissions were published after review, and one was accepted after solicitation (a book review).

On average, it took 53 days to accept a submission for publication after sending it out for peer-review. For 2021, we are talking about a very small number of papers indeed, yet one major issue we are and have been facing at *Biolinguistics* concerns response time and responsibility of reviewers: In order to secure at least two reviewers for a given submission, we frequently have to approach five potential reviewers or more. And while many often take longer to provide the review (which is ok in pandemic times but is something we experienced before as well, of course), some reviewers never deliver despite agreeing to carry out this important task. This mirrors what was identified more generally in a recently published commentary (D'Arcy, Alexandra & Joseph Salmons. 2021. Peer review in linguistics journals: Best practices and emerging standards. *Language* 97.4: e383–e407).

Another relevant type of statistics concerns the number of downloads. Here, too, we experienced some technical difficulties due to the provider since the last migration three years ago. But we can say with some certainty that all published pieces are downloaded several hundred times, most even around the four-figure mark: Over the past 6 years alone (since volume 10), 20 pieces were downloaded over 1,000 times, two of which even more than 2,000 times—not including some counts that were lost in the last migration process. Given that only around 500 people are registered in the system, this is a great testimony to the success of true open-access publishing.

Finally, we are extremely grateful to our colleagues who agreed to review for *Biolinguistics* throughout 2021, the second pandemic year which impacts all of us. They are listed below by name in alphabetical order. For everything else, to close in customary fashion, we thank all our authors, readers, and supporters as well as the members of the *Biolinguistics* Advisory Board, the Editorial Board, and the Task Team for their participation and feedback, which is so crucial to the success of the journal. We appreciate your service to our scientific community.

## Reviewers

Andreas Blümel  
Barbara Citko  
John Collins  
Koji Fujita

Wolfram Hinzen  
Hisatsugu Kitahara  
Gereon Müller  
Robert Scholz