

Workshop ID : 14

Workshop Duration : Workshop - 1 Day

Workshop Title : **History of linguistics & its Significance**

Workshop Leader : **Camiel Hamans**, Adam Mickiewicz University

The history of linguistics as a separate and well organized discipline is relatively young. There always has been interest in the topic among individual scholars. However, till the mid 1960 linguists and students of linguistics were familiar with relatively few names of important predecessors. The 1967 *Short History of Linguistics* by Robert H. Robins was very short. With the publication of *Cartesian Linguistics*, in which Noam Chomsky tried to base his theory of generative grammar on the foundations of an earlier philosophical and linguistic tradition, research into the actual history of linguistics turned out to be not only necessary, but also proved to be a meaningful linguistic discipline in itself. The history of linguistics appeared as worthwhile as any other historical research, as evidenced by the three-volumed *Landmarks in Linguistic Thought* (Harris, Talbot-Taylor et al).

Within a few decades several international organizations for the study of the history of linguistics were established in Europe, North and South America, Australia and Asia. A series of international conferences have followed, together with a few specialized journals and international handbooks. However, until now the history of linguistics never managed to gain a substantive place at ICL. A positive exception was the last ICL where Giorgio Graffi was invited to present a plenary on the history of the relations between linguistics and psychology, and where Frederick Newmeyer organized a workshop on the legacy of de Saussure.

The aim of this workshop is to demonstrate that the history of linguistics is an important sub-discipline in itself and especially how research into the history of linguistics may be fruitful to linguistics as such. Contributors are invited to show how older, lesser known or forgotten linguistic theories may support modern research. In addition, papers which show how certain seemingly modern concepts have been approached and sometimes refuted in the past also are most welcome.

Emphasis in the contributions should be on the importance of the history of linguistics for current linguistic research.