III. NORDIC STUDIES
NORDIC LANGUAGES AND LINGUISTICS*

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1. General

A number of conferences and workshops addressed Nordic languages and linguistics, among them Dublin City University’s Place Names Workshop, 24–25 August, on the theme ‘Management and Dissemination of Toponymic Data Online’, which included presentations on Norwegian (Botolv Helleland) and Swedish (Leif Nilsson) toponymic research. The proceedings are available at <http://www.logainm.ie/placenames2012/pdf/proceedings_imeachtai.pdf>. From 18–20 April at the University of Freiburg, the 11th International Conference on Nordic and General Linguistics, the first to be held outside Scandinavia since the 1970s, offered 28 sessions on topics including pragmatics, typology, the left periphery, and prosody. The Nordisk forening for leksikografi published the proceedings of their 2011 meeting, *Rapport från Konferensen om lexikografi i Norden Lund 24–27 maj 2011*, and the proceedings from the 12th meeting in Oslo from 13–16 August on the theme ‘Lexicography and National Identity’ are available at <http://www.euralex.org/proceedings-toc/euralex_2012/>. Two-page abstracts from the 27th Comparative Germanic Syntax Workshop, 31 May-1 June in New Haven, CT, are available at <http://whitney.ling.yale.edu/cgsw27/CGSW_27/Program.html>. The Berkeley Germanic Linguistics Roundtable of 23–24 March included several sessions on Old Norse and comparative Germanic topics.


*NJL* released two issues (the thematic third issue has not yet appeared) with articles on cross-linguistic variations in tense, markedness theory, retroflexion, and participle standardization in Mainland Scandinavian alongside a few articles on English and Finnish.

* This year marks the first appearance of a combined section, which now includes studies on Icelandic, Faroese, Runic, and Old Norse-Icelandic. Broadly comparative topics appear first, followed by languages in alphabetical order.
2. Phonetics and Phonology

Elizabeth Casserly, ‘Gestures in Optimality Theory and the Laryngeal Phonology of Faroese’, *Lingua*, 122:41–65, analyses aspiration in Faroese through Optimality Theory and articulatory phonology. Gestural score representations oppose other treatments of pre-aspiration, which contributes to the author’s view of a more nuanced alignment-based distinction amongst aspiration and other features.


Allison Wetterlin and Aditi Lahiri, ‘Tonal Alternations in Norwegian Compounds’, *LRev*, 29:279–320, accounts for Accent 1 as the lexical accent in Standard East Norwegian (SEN), in opposition to Einar Haugen’s half-century-old support of Accent 2, on the basis of compounding. Accent assignment in SEN appears to differentiate on the lexical level first and then by postlexical cliticization.

Thorstein Fretheim and Wim A. van Dommelen, ‘A Pragmatic Perspective on the Phonological Values of Utterance-Final Boundary Tones in East Norwegian Intonation’, *LRev*, 29:663–77, present evidence for a pragmatically significant native-speaker phonological contrast between Low and High Boundary tones.

From the perspective of Optimality Theory, Sverre Stausland Johnsen, ‘From Perception to Phonology: The Emergence of Perceptually Motivated Constraint Rankings’, *Lingua*, 122:125–43, suggests on the example of Norwegian that the process of learning phonology produce the constraint rankings for alveolars and retroflexes on the basis of perceived distances.

Hanne Gram Simonsen et al., ‘Reply to Sverre Stausland Johnsen, Janne Bondi Johannessen and Bert Vaux’, *JPh*, 41:59–62, reply to comments on their 2008 article on Norwegian retroflex stops, arguing for ‘morphological differences in palate shape between individual speakers’ over dialectal variance as the source of data variations.

Catherine Ringen and Kari Suomi, ‘The Voicing Contrast in Fenno-Swedish Stops’, *JPh*, 40:419–29, explore the contrast difference between Fenno-Swedish and Standard Swedish stops, adhering to patterns observed in other languages with similar contact relationships to languages with a different system of contrasts.