

مركز العلوم الانسانية والاجتماعية
Center for Humanities and Social Sciences

Language and Nature in Southern and Eastern Arabia

This interdisciplinary symposium examines the symbiotic relationship between local languages and nature in Southern and Eastern Arabia through a multidisciplinary network of ecosystem and humanities scholars from the UK, North America, Russia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, and representatives from local social groups in Southern and Eastern Arabia.

Local languages are under threat in many parts of the world. This is of global concern because these languages reflect the close relationship between people and their natural environment, embodying the complex relationship with landscape and seasons. When the languages are lost, these connections are broken. Areas of the world which enjoy the greatest language diversity tend to exhibit the greatest biodiversity, and loss of the one commonly precipitates loss in the other.

We select Southern and Eastern Arabia as a case study to examine biocultural diversity for three main reasons:

- a) The region shows significant and rapidly depleting linguistic and bio-diversity;
- b) A significant body of linguistic and ecosystem data from the region is available to the team;
- c) Within the academic field of biocultural diversity, there is little focus on SE Arabia.

The workshop will produce scientific research papers that will be prepared for publication.

This workshop will support the preservation efforts of the environmental intangible heritage in the region.

Date: 18th – 20th February, 2018

Venue: Administration Building / Conference Room

Qatar University

Program

Day 1: 18th February	
8:00 – 8:50	Registration of participants
8:50 – 9:05	<p>Opening Session</p> <p>Welcoming Address and Introduction: Prof. Kaltham Al-Ghanim, Director of Center of Humanities and Social Sciences, College of Arts and Sciences, and Prof. Janet Watson, University of Leeds</p>
9:05 – 11:00	Session 1: Language in Southern and Eastern Arabia
09:05 – 09:40	<p>Chair: Dr. Maryam Al Nuaimi or Dr. Murad Mabrok</p> <p>The Modern South Arabian languages: Ali al-Mahri, Janet Watson, University of Leeds, Leonid Kogan, National Research University, Moscow</p>
09:40 – 10:15	Poetry, figurative language and nature in Modern South Arabian poetry. Sam Liebhaber, Middlebury College, Ahmed al-Mashikhi, SQU, Muscat, Idal al-Amri
10:15 – 10:50	Kumzari and the languages of Musandam. Christina Anonby (by Skype), Erik Anonby, University of Carleton, AbdulQadr AlKumzari
10:50 – 11:05	Discussion and Q & A
11:05 – 11:20	Prayer time and Coffee break
11:20 – 12:35	Session 1 continued
11:20 – 11:45	<p>Chair: Dr. Khalid Al-Mula</p> <p>Traditional Knowledge and Vocabulary of Weather and Astronomy in Qatari's Heritage: Kaltham Al-Ghanim, CHSS, Qatar University</p>
11:45 – 12:10	Arabic dialects of Yemen: Abdul Gabbar al-Sharafi, SQU, Muscat
12:10 – 12:35	Is the Qatari dialect and endangered language? Muntasir Al-Hamad, Qatar University
12:35 – 12:50	Discussion and Q & A

12:50 – 1:30	Lunch
1:30 – 5:00	Session 2: The environment in Southern and Eastern Arabia
1:30 – 1:55	Fauna of Southern and Eastern Arabia: Alec Moore, Bangor University (by Skype); Erik Anonby, University of Carleton
1:55 – 2:20	Flora of Southern and Eastern Arabia: Shahina Ghazanfar, Royal Botanical Gardens, Kew
2:20 – 2:45	Natural resource management: Jon Lovett, University of Leeds
2:45– 3:10	Mobile Peoples and Conservation: Dawn Chatty, University of Oxford
3:10 – 3:30	Discussion and Q & A
3:30 – 4:30	Building interdisciplinary research teams. Led by Kaltham al-Ghanim, Qatar University, Jon Lovett and Janet C.E. Watson, University of Leeds

Day 2: 19th February	
Capacity Building in Southern and Eastern Arabia	
9:30 – 10:30	Capacity building in sustainable conservation. Dawn Chatty, University of Oxford
10:30 – 11:30	Capacity building in sustainable conservation, Mandana Seyfeddinipur, Sophie Salffner & Stephanie Petit, SOAS, University of London (Mandana and Sophie by Skype)
11:30 – 12:00	Discussion and Q & A
12:00 – 12:30	Prayer time and Tea and coffee
12:30 – 1:30	Capacity building in sustainable conservation, continued
1:30 – 2:00	Discussion and Q & A
2:00 – 3:00	Lunch
3:00 – 4:00	Building interdisciplinary research teams, continued. Led by Kaltham al-Ghanim, Jon Lovett and Janet C.E. Watson

Day 3: 20 th February	
Community Archiving and Digital Mapping	
Session 1: Community Archiving	
10:00 – 11:30	Community Archiving: Tom Jackson, University of Leeds, Simon Popple, University of Leeds (by Skype or video conference)
11:30 – 11:50	Tea and coffee
11:50 – 12:30	More on community archiving
12:30 – 1:00	Discussion and Q & A
1:00 – 2:00	Lunch
Session 2: Digital Mapping in relation to Southern and Eastern Arabia	
2:00 – 4:00	Geomatics and digital mapping: Erik Anonby & Adam Stone, University of Carleton; Amos Hayes, University of Carleton (by Skype or video conference)
4:00 – 4:20	Tea and coffee
4:20 – 5:00	Geomatics and digital mapping continued
5:00 – 6:00	Discussion and Q & A

Abstracts & biographies

Kaltham al-Ghanim

Kaltham Al Ghanim is Professor of Sociology at Qatar University, since 1995, and director of the Center for Humanities and Social Sciences in the College of Arts and Sciences in Qatar University, since September 2014. She has conducted field research related to culture and human development. She is the author of three specialized academic books and numerous papers in areas of interest such as domestic violence, marriage, and gender roles. Her interests cover a wide range of issues including woman studies, social problems, sustainable development, local oral history, culture, folklore and heritage. Currently, she leads several research projects funded by various national and international institutions. Prof. Kaltham has relationships with many national, regional and international institutions as expert in socio-cultural studies and human development.

Janet C.E. Watson

Janet studied Arabic & Islamic Studies at the University of Exeter, and Linguistics and then completed a PhD on the phonology and morphology of Yemeni Arabic dialects at SOAS, London. She has held academic posts at the Universities of Edinburgh, Durham and Salford. She has held visiting posts at the universities of Heidelberg (2003-4) and Oslo (2004-5). She took up the Leadership Chair for [Language@Leeds](#) at the University of Leeds on 1st May 2013, and was elected Fellow of the British Academy in July 2013. Her main research interests lie in the documentation of Modern South Arabian languages and modern Arabic dialects, with particular focus on theoretical phonological and morphological approaches to language varieties spoken within the south-western Arabian Peninsula.

Ali al-Mahri

Ali al-Mahri is a bilingual speaker of two Modern South Arabian languages, Mehri and Shahri. He has been working as a research assistant on Modern South Arabian languages since December 2009. Since this date, he has co-presented with Janet Watson at 7 international conferences/workshops and has co-presented 5 guest lectures at international venues. He has also co-authored two papers currently in press, and is co-authoring two books for publication with OUP and Harrassowitz.

Leonid Kogan

Leonid Kogan is a senior researcher at the Institute for Oriental and Classical studies at the National Research University - Higher School of Economics (Moscow, Russia), where he teaches Arabic and Comparative Semitics. He has published extensively on a variety of subjects pertaining to Semitic linguistics and philology, from early Akkadian to Modern South Arabian. Field researcher on the island of Soqatra since 2010 to the present day. Co-editor of a multi-volume series *Corpus of Soqotri Oral Literature* (Leiden: Brill).

The Modern South Arabian languages: Introduction

Janet Watson, Leonid Kogan, Ali al-Mahri

This paper will provide a short introduction to the languages, and continue by discussing the degree to which the Modern South Arabian languages (MSAL) have been documented in relation to nature. We begin by examining the situation with regard to the MSAL spoken in the Yemeni and Omani mainland, and then go on to examine Soqotri.

The Soqotri language is spoken by approximately **100,000 inhabitants** of the island of Soqatra (Gulf of Aden, Republic of Yemen). Most speakers today are to some extent bilingual with Arabic. Interest towards **literacy and education in Soqotri** is growing rapidly, and there are good chances that a commonly accepted Arabic-based writing system will soon be implemented on the island.

Soqotri often appears to be closer to Šherēt than to Mehri, but this is still hard to evaluate: in many cases ancient Modern South Arabian features have been lost in Mehri, but preserved in Šherēt and Soqotri.

Compared with its continental sister tongues, Soqotri has a relatively reduced **consonantal** system. The **vocalic** system is simple, with just five vowels: *a, e, i, o, u* (the latter of rather limited presence). The **stress** is almost always penultimate.

The Soqotri **lexicon**, similar to Šherēt in many respects, is exceedingly rich and varied. Every single day of fieldwork research typically produces 10-15 “new” Soqotri lexemes, that is, those missing from Leslau’s *Lexique Soqotri* of 1938, so far the only completed lexical work for Soqotri.

Sam Liebhaber

Sam Liebhaber is an Associate Professor of Arabic at Middlebury College. He received his M.A. degree in Comparative Semitics (2000) and his Ph.D. in Arabic Literature from the University of California, Berkeley (2007). Sam Liebhaber edited a translation of the first written collection of poetry in the Mahri language, *The Dīwān of Ḥājj Dākōn* (American Institute for Yemeni Studies, 2011), and has published articles on Mahri poetry and language in a number of scholarly journals. Sam Liebhaber is currently working on an online publication, “When Melodies Gather” (Stanford University Press, in production), a digital project that takes visitors on a step-by-step journey through the act of oral poetic composition in the Mahri language.

Ahmed Al Mashikhi

Ahmed Al Mashikhi has been working at the department of Mass Communications, Sultan Qaboos University, Muscat since 1998. He completed his BA and MA at Belarus State University, Russia, and his PhD at the University of Exeter, UK. The title of his thesis was: Television in the Sultanate of Oman: its development, role and function in the Omani society. He is a member of numerous councils and committees, including State Council, where he is Chairman of the Culture, Information and Tourism Committee. He teaches a number of courses, including radio and television, mass media in Oman, mass media and crisis management, and the role of mass media in national development. From 1987 – 1998 he worked as Advisor to the Under-Secretary Office, at the Ministry of Information. He is a native speaker of Ṣḥeret and Arabic. He is also a fluent speaker of Russian and English. His academic interests include media policies, mass media and society, and new media.

Poetry, Figurative Language, and Nature in Modern South Arabian Poetry

Sam Liebhaber, Ahmed al-Mashikhi, Idal al-Amri

The pre-Islamic, Arabic-language *qaṣīda* has long been noted for its detailed and intimate treatment of the natural environment. Indeed, the natural world provided the basic material for the metaphorical idiom of the oral poets of pre-Islamic Arabia; failure to understand the elements of their natural world leads to a corresponding deadening of poetic meaning. The dilemma can be approached from the opposite direction: absent the metaphorically rich language of poetry, the accumulated environmental knowledge of several millennia is lost as well. This logic holds true for the related poetic traditions in the Ṣḥērī and Mahrī languages which, like the pre-Islamic *qaṣīda*, are the product of an oral tradition whose practitioners live in close proximity to the natural world described in their poetry. In the panel, “Poetry, Figurative Language, and Nature in Modern South Arabian Poetry”, participants Dr. Ahmed al-Mashikhi, Dr. Sam Liebhaber, and the Ṣḥērī-language poet, Idal al-Amri, will address the role of poetry in the Modern South Arabian languages in circulating ecological knowledge, and the metaphorical meanings of natural tropes in the poetic idioms of these languages. In doing so, the participants hope to draw attention to the value of poetic texts and poetic performance in the documentation and circulation of environmental knowledge, especially in languages whose speakers face pressure to assimilate to a second, dominant language.

Within this paper, we will discuss the ideas and meanings in Dhofari poetry in the language of Shaharat, focusing on the poetry and art of the *Nana*, which features short poetic verses that carry many metaphorical expressions from the vocabulary of nature. Idal Alamri, a well-known woman poet, has been selected for the study.

The paper will illustrate the use of the vocabulary of nature, such as rain, clouds, twilight, sunset, sunrise, shadows, sun, moon, mountains, and their metaphorical meanings in Dhofari *Nana* poetry.

Christina Anonby

Christina van der Wal Anonby is a researcher in the Department of Languages and Cultures of the Middle East, at Leiden University in the Netherlands. For her Master's degree at the University of Alberta, Canada, she carried out anthropological research among the Luri nomads of Iran. In Canada, she studied linguistics and Iraqi Arabic. Subsequently, she spent one year in Kuwait and two years in Oman, teaching and doing research. For her PhD she lived in Musandam and studied the indigenous Kumzari language. Dr. Anonby has written *A Grammar of Kumzari* as well as articles on linguistics, discourse, and poetics in Kumzari folklore.

Erik Anonby

Erik Anonby is Associate Professor of French and Linguistics at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. His interdisciplinary research focuses on the importance of linguistic diversity in individual human experience and collective heritage. He studies ways in which language mapping can be designed to involve end users in language documentation, accommodate contrasting perspectives of language identity and language distribution, and refine visualizations of these perspectives using linguistic data corpuses. Anonby is the author of numerous publications including *A Grammar of Mambay* (2011), *Adaptive Multilinguals: Language on Larak Island* (2011), and *Bakhtiari studies: Phonology, text, lexicon* (2014). He was recently awarded the Humboldt Fellowship for Experienced Researchers, and leads an international team of over 50 colleagues and student researchers in work on the *Atlas of the Languages of Iran*.

AbdulQadr AlKumzari

AbdulQader AlKumzari currently lives in Khasab and originally comes from Kumzar. He received his M.Ed degree in TESOL (2015) from the University of Exeter, UK. He is a speaker of Kumzari, Arabic and English. He is working for the Ministry of Education as a regional educational supervisor of English Language. He is supervising and training teachers across the Musandam governorate.

Representations of nature in Kumzari and the Arabic dialects of Musandam

Christina Anonby, AbdulQadr AlKumzari, Erik Anonby

Part 1: Musandam Peninsula is characterized by a rich linguistic landscape which includes Kumzari and numerous varieties of Shihhi Arabic. Both language communities are characterized by a wealth of traditional knowledge, expressed through culture and

language, that is deeply imprinted by relation with the natural world. In our presentation, we will give a brief overview of these language communities and discuss their interaction with nature through date palm cultivation, fishing, goat herding, mountain-top agriculture, and seasonal migration.

Part 2: The Kumzari people of northern Oman have a close relationship to nature. As nomadic fishers and date cultivators, their lives and livelihoods are governed by the environment on which they depend. The Kumzari language reflects this interaction: traditional folklore is replete with mentions of fish, the sea, rocks, mountains, trees, birds, and animals. This part of the presentation explores the links between Kumzari tales and their natural surroundings.

Abdul Gabbar al-Sharafi

Abdul Gabbar Al-Sharafi is currently Head of the Department of English Language and Literature, College of Arts and Social Sciences at Sultan Qaboos University, Oman. He has expertise in Arabic text linguistics, rhetoric and Arabic/English translation. He did an MA in translation studies at Durham University in 1997. In 2000, he completed a PhD thesis in comparative text linguistics from the same university. The thesis was later published as a book by Palgrave Macmillan in 2004. Abdul Gabbar has published a number of research papers in translation and rhetoric.

Interaction between Language and Nature in a Rapidly Changing Language Landscape: Dhi Sufal Arabic as an example

Abdul Gabbar al-Sharafi

Dhi Sufal Arabic is a Yemeni Arabic dialect spoken in Dhi Sufal district, a mountainous region about 44 km south-west of the city of Ibb and about 41 km north-west of the city of Taizz. It is spoken by approximately 163,019 people. The district of Dhi Sufal is an agriculturally rich region and the entire population of the region until recently used to work in traditional farming. The dialect is a *k*-dialect of Arabic characterized by the realisation of the first person singular and second person forms of the perfect verb as /k/ rather than /t/. Thus, Standard Arabic *šaribtu al-maaʔa* 'I drank the water', is realized with /k/ with some vowel modification, *šurubk am-maaʔa*. The district relies on farming culture with major concerns with rainfall, solar and lunar movement. The culture goes back to an ancient plant irrigation system using water from mountain springs through water canals, hence the importance of time in the distribution of water amongst all beneficiaries. This system makes excellent use of the movement of the moon at night and movement of the sun during the day to indicate time periods before modern watches. The culture also shows a great concern with seasons. As a native speaker of this dialect and a frequent visitor of the district, I noticed that modernization and urbanization is affecting the district in many different ways. There is clearly linguistic and cultural loss due to neglect of agriculture by younger generations who leave the district and emigrate to Saudi Arabia and other Gulf countries for work. This has resulted in a great deal of language and cultural loss in semantic fields relating to this farming, agrarian and irrigation culture. This paper aims to highlight the problem and discuss ways of preserving and documenting this rapidly disappearing culture.

Muntasir Al-Hamad

Muntasir Al-Hamad, Qatar University, Qatar (MA, PhD and FHE Fellow of Higher Education Academy-UK) is specialist in comparative Semitic Languages syntax and grammar, and is highly interested in the history of the region and its faiths.

Before moving to Qatar University to teach Arabic at the Arabic for Non-Native Speakers Center, Al-Hamad worked as a lecturer of Arabic and Oriental Studies at the Manchester Metropolitan University, as well as the director of Amstone Project on Abrahamic Religions at the University of Manchester.

He provides training and consultancies for various universities, schools, educational firms and publishers in the field of teaching Arabic as a second/foreign language.

Is the Qatari dialect an endangered language?

Muntasir Al-Hamad

In the year 2003, the “International Expert Meeting on UNESCO Programme Safeguarding of Endangered Languages” adopted the UNESCO’s concept document “Language Vitality Endangerment”, where it developed a framework of nine language vitality factors in order to examine a language/dialect vitality. “These nine factors can determine the viability of a language, its function in society and the type of measures required for its maintenance or revitalization” (UNESCO 2003).

The Qatari dialect continues to be spoken, however it has gone through significant changes in recent years (Maṭar, A. 1983; Bettega, S. 2017) since Qatar is experiencing a dynamic linguistic situation (Pechine, K. 2013 & 2017; Al Hamad, M. 2017).

This paper examine the viability of the Qatari dialect against the UNESCO’s framework of a nine-factor scale. It will also shed a light on the effect of language and social policies and language planning agendas (e.g. RAND educational policies, Qatar Vision 2030, Strategic Qatarization Plan).

Alec Moore

Alec is a marine ecologist who has published extensively on the biodiversity, fisheries and conservation of the sharks and rays of Arabia. His work has included the discovery of Arabian endemic species, co-authoring the only guidebook for the Gulf, and documenting the extinction of sawfishes. Alec has previously worked in Dhofar as a marine fauna consultant, working with linguists to document vocabularies of Modern South Arabian languages. Alec is particularly interested in the relationship between bio- and linguistic diversity, and the potential for endangered languages to be harnessed both for documenting historic environmental baselines and mutual conservation of bio- and linguistic diversity.

Cultural and linguistic connections with animals in Southern and Eastern Arabia

Alec Moore, Erik Anonby

In this presentation, we look at the natural environment, and fauna in particular, as context for the languages and cultures of southern and eastern Arabia. We look at patterns of faunal diversity including endemism, endangerment and extinction, and explore an apparent correlation between biological diversity and linguistic diversity in the region. [Erik – 10 min:] We then look at concepts and methods in ethnobiology, which seeks to describe the way that various cultures organize and express their scientific knowledge of living organisms. As a case study, we contrast a western-based scientific inventory with the indigenous taxonomy of birds in the Lori culture of the Zagros Mountains.

Shahina Ghazanfar

Shahina studied plant sciences at the Punjab University, Pakistan, and plant systematics and taxonomy for a PhD at the University of Cambridge, UK. She has held academic positions at Sultan Qaboos University, Oman, Bayero University in Nigeria, University of the South Pacific, Fiji and at the Pakistan Agriculture Research Council. She joined the Royal Botanic Gardens Kew, UK, in 2001, and is currently editor of *Flora of Iraq*. Her main research is on the floras of the Middle East, with particular reference to biogeography, plants of economic importance, conservation and restoration. Her major reference works include: *Vegetation of the Arabian Peninsula* (1998: Kluwer), *Medicinal plants of the Arabian Peninsula* (1994: CRC Press), *Flora of the Sultanate of Oman* (4 Vols, National Botanic Garden, Belgium).

Floral diversity of south eastern Arabia

Shahina Ghazanfar

The flora of south-eastern Arabia is shaped by the unique geographical position of the Arabian Peninsula, its climate, and the influence it has from African and Asian floristic elements. In addition, the southwest monsoons that bring heavy mists to the coastal escarpment mountains have a great effect on the vegetation, and give rise to an exceptional set of plant communities containing many endemic species. The vegetation of south eastern Arabia is tropical, consisting of deciduous woodland, sclerophyllous shrubland and grassland, which are reminiscent of the tropical African montane forests and grassland. The close proximity of north-east Africa to southern Arabia has resulted in similar plant communities on both sides of the Red Sea, such as the *Acacia-Commiphora* shrubland, but interspersed with a diversity of plant species that give the vegetation of southern and south-eastern Arabia its distinct character.

The vegetation of southern Arabia needs protection. Continuing development, especially along the coasts, and overgrazing by livestock, is a great threat to the vegetation. Many areas are degraded, where invasive alien plant species have taken over, threatening the biodiversity of the region. A recent report on Terrestrial Biodiversity & Climate Change by AGEDI's Local, National, and Regional Climate Change Programme (2016) has shown that many of Arabia's unique ecosystems may be particularly vulnerable to climatic change; this is an additional threat to the already vulnerable ecosystems. It is therefore important to take immediate measures for the protection and conservation of the plant biodiversity of the Arabian Peninsula.

Jon Lovett

Jon studied Botany at the University of Oxford and then spent more than ten years in the field studying the tropical rainforests of eastern Tanzania, completing a PhD on the topic with the University of Wales at Bangor. He made a disciplinary switch to institutional economics in the early 1990s to better understand natural resource management and has conducted research in this field in many countries including Mexico, Lebanon, Nepal and Indonesia. He has held academic posts in the Universities of Dar es Salaam (1984-1992), Copenhagen (1992-1994), York (1994-2007) and Twente (2007-2012), and is currently Leadership Chair in Global Challenges at the University of Leeds.

Language and Nature: Natural Resource Management

Giving Spirits and Controlling Ancestors

Jon Lovett

This talk explores the nuanced complexities of the institutional economics of natural resource management and presents a challenge to linguistics for looking for the language that describes them. In a classic paper contrasting the economics of hunter-gatherers and agriculturists, the anthropologist Nurit Bird-David described a fundamental dichotomy between a system based on a 'giving spirit' and that of a 'controlling ancestor', which represent different types of values. In community-based natural resource management these values intertwine and are also part of hierarchies of control and access rights. Examples are used to present the basic taxonomy of these hierarchies as developed by Elinor Ostrom, and an economics-linguistic research agenda proposed.

Dawn Chatty

Dawn Chatty is Emeritus Professor in Anthropology and Forced Migration and former Director of the Refugee Studies Centre, Department of International Development (Queen Elizabeth House), University of Oxford, UK. Her research interests include coping strategies and resilience of refugee youth, tribes and tribalism, nomadic pastoralism and conservation, gender and development, health, illness and culture. Among her most recent books are: *Syria: The Making and Unmaking of a Refugee State*, Hurst and Oxford University press, 2017; *From Camel to Truck: The Bedouin in the Modern World*, White Horse Press, 2013 2nd edition [1986]; *Dispossession and Displacement in the Modern Middle East*, Cambridge University Press, 2010; *Nomadic Societies in the Middle East and North Africa: Facing the 21st Century*, Leiden, Brill.

Mobile Peoples and Conservation

Dawn Chatty

This presentation will focus on the Harasiis mobile camel and goat pastoral herders of the Jiddat il-Harasiis, Sultanate of Oman. It will first describe this social group of between 5,000 – 8,000 people living in what was, until the middle of the 1950s, a waterless arid stone and gravel plain of about 40,000 square kilometers. It will then address contemporary issues for this tribe around transregionality, and contested desertscapes, both among conservation

organizations and multi-national extractive industry. In its longitudinal approach the presentation will articulate this tribe's resilience and adaptation to the challenges of their physical and social environment and specifically address the contestation over Western conservation efforts in the form of the WWF flagship Arabian Oryx reintroduction project.

Mandana Seyfeddinipur

Mandana Seyfeddinipur is the director of the Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP) and the Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR) at SOAS University of London. She is a linguist specialising on language use, multimodality in language use and their cognitive foundation the role of video recording in language documentation.

ELDP provides grants worldwide for language documentation projects and has funded over 400 documentation projects worldwide over the past 15 years. The materials collected under ELDP funding are archived at ELAR a digital repository preserving and publishing the documentary collections.

As part of this work, ELDP and ELAR provide training in linguistic language documentation theory and methods in world wide. Training encompassing training in empirical linguistics, semantic data collection and analysis for dictionary making, conversational language use collection, corpus creation and sampling as well as linguistic software use, audio and video recording techniques and equipment use, data management and archiving.

Sophie Salffner

Sophie trained as a language teacher and linguist and has conducted intensive language documentation fieldwork in south-western Nigeria. For her postdoctoral research, Sophie collaborated closely with an anthropologist and people in the community she worked in in order to document language and cultural practices around farming, food and yam. Sophie has been working as the Digital Archivist of the Endangered Languages Archive, SOAS University of London, since 2014. With three of her own language documentation deposits at ELAR, Sophie knows about the perils and frustrations of preparing a deposit first-hand, but also knows about the joys of seeing it up online and showing the work to others. Sophie uses her experience to provide advice and training for language documenters on all aspects of data management, metadata preparation and digital archiving.

Stephanie Petit

Stephanie Petit is a graduate of SOAS, University of London, and is a part of the Digital Archiving team in the Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR). She has worked with Prof. Janet Watson in curating and uploading the Modern South Arabian Languages corpora. For the Language and Nature in Southern and Eastern Arabia Symposium, she will deliver a collaboratively created presentation on ELAR's language documentation projects alongside its director, Dr Mandana Seyfeddinipur and Dr Sophie Salffner.

Capacity building in sustainable conservation

Mandana Seyfeddinipur, Sophie Salffner, Stephanie Petit

Archives like the Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR) at SOAS, University of London, are designed for English speaking users. In addition to a proficiency in English, accessing recordings, transcriptions and translations requires academic and digital proficiency. This means that valuable collections are hidden behind an English digital interface which is not always easily understood. However, the key users of such digital archives are often the speaker communities themselves. Community archiving with systems like Mukurtu's allows the community to design and organise the recordings in meaningful ways for themselves. Moreover, providing the metadata information in the local language, and in the major contact language, provides access to the materials to all community members. Such platforms valorise the language and the community and give them a digital presence, which is often lacking today. We will present a model for creating digital portals which gives back ownership over the representation of communities' linguistic heritage. Such a digital archive can also engage young generations who master the digital world easily, in turn mobilising an excitement about this heritage across generations.

Tom Jackson

Tom Jackson is a Research Associate in the School of Media and Communication at the University of Leeds. His primary area of research is sensory ethnography. Bringing together interests in cross-modal perception, anthropology, cultural geography and digital media, he proposes new sensory research methods. Through the design and development of digital tools, such as multisensory, spatial and participatory virtual archives and immersive and embodied audiovisual recordings, his work aims to explore the relationships between sensory experience and cultural phenomena. Tom's commercial experience in graphic design, photography and interactive programming has informed his largely practice-led approach to research.

Simon Popple

Simon Popple is senior lecturer in Photography and Digital Culture and Director of Impact in the School of Media and Communication at the University of Leeds. His work has become increasingly focussed on the co-production of digital tools which allow communities to develop independent access to cultural and historical resources as a means of storytelling, campaigning and social advocacy. His research is concerned with the relationships between communities, institutions and concepts of democratic exchange, open space and the digital sphere. He has worked with a range of community and arts organisations and national institutions including the BBC and the Science Museum Group and has led several AHRC/EPSRC funded projects in this area.

Community Archiving and Sensory practices

Simon Popple, Tom Jackson

In this session Simon Popple and Tom Jackson will consider the various approaches to the issues of community archives, archiving approaches and the use of sensory technologies as a means of locating the lived experiences of communities in a range of contexts. We will cover the issues of ownership, voice, technological capacities and the role of simple technologies that can enhance the experience of archiving lived and emplaced stories and histories.

Adam Stone

Adam Stone is the Executive Director for the Foundation for Endangered Languages of Canada (<http://www.felcanada.org>), which is a newly-fledged charity responsible for safeguarding intangible cultural heritage for future generations by enabling the documentation, protection, revitalization and promotion of First Nation, Inuit and Métis languages in Canada, and endangered languages throughout the world.

With a background in formal linguistics, cognitive science, and GIS mapping, Adam is PhD student of Applied Linguistics and Discourse Studies at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. Working closely with Dr. Erik Anonby, Adam is involved in the production of maps for the documentation of languages in Iran, and is engaged in providing assistance to Dr. Marie-Odile Junker in the production of linguistic maps of Indigenous languages in Canada. In his current work and studies, Adam hopes to advance the field of digital language mapping, with specific regard to the development of maps as powerful tools of research, communication, language revitalization, and education.

Amos Hayes

Amos Hayes is the Technical Manager at the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre at Carleton University. He is the architect of the Nunaliit atlas framework (<http://nunaliit.org>) and oversees its development and deployment in partnership with dozens of community, faculty, and student researchers in Canada and internationally.

Amos has extensive experience co-designing and deploying knowledge collection, mapping, and visualization systems based on Nunaliit. This includes working with linguistic scholars on a small number of language atlases including the Atlas of the Languages of Iran, the Inuktut Lexicon Atlas, and an upcoming atlas of English on the Canadian prairies.

Kumiko Murasugi

Kumiko Murasugi is Associate Professor of Linguistics and Cognitive Science at Carleton University, Ottawa. Her research examines Inuit languages from a variety of perspectives: structure, dialectal variation, documentation, language change, and bilingualism. She is currently developing an online multimedia atlas of the Inuit language in Canada, in partnership with the Geomatics and Cartographic Research Centre at Carleton and Inuit organizations across Canada. She provides linguistic support to Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami,

Canada's national Inuit organization, on their project exploring the standardization of their writing system.

Geomatics and digital mapping for language and nature

Erik Anonby, Amos Hayes, Kumiko Murasugi, Adam Stone

Mapping is a powerful medium for communicating the results of research, but it can also provide an innovative and versatile tool for conducting research and for connecting with communities, audiences and stakeholders. In this presentation, we review the planning and implementation process of two language community-centred atlas projects: the Atlas of the Languages of Iran (ALI) and the Atlas of the Inuit Language in Canada. We then consider well-known programs for producing static maps (QGIS and ArcGIS), contrasting these with dynamic mapping platforms, and the Nunaliit Atlas Platform in particular. The session concludes with a facilitated discussion of the ways in which these atlases and platforms could enable the construction of an atlas of language and nature, and the ways in which the distinct focus on the language of nature in Southern and Eastern Arabia necessitates its own focus, methods and tools.

(Arranged according to the order of the presentations)