Contact Linguistics Today: Theory, Data, and Methods

We are pleased to announce the workshop *Contact Linguistics Today: Theory, Data, and Methods* (CLT2027), to be hosted at Babeș-Bolyai University, Faculty of Letters (Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár, Romania) on 1 September 2027. This event provides a forum for original work exploring contact phenomena in syntax, morphology, phonology, phonetics, semantics, and pragmatics, with a view to advancing our understanding of how contact shapes syntactic, morphological, phonological, semantic and pragmatic phenomena and how it drives their change in language.

The workshop is preceded by the 18th International Conference on the Structure of Hungarian (ICSH18), to be held on 30 August – 1 September 2027 at the same venue.

Confirmed invited speaker: Veronica Tomescu (University of Bucharest)

Call for Papers:

Contact between languages is one of the richest sources of evidence we have about the structure of language. What can be transferred, what resists transfer, what is restructured, and what emerges anew all bear directly on our models of syntax, semantics, pragmatics, morphology and phonology. Contact data test claims about modularity and interfaces in language, the representation of bilingual and multilingual knowledge and its acquisition, the nature of transfer and borrowability, and the limits of grammatical variation, among many others. We have also learned more about the factors that shape contact outcomes, including typological distance and structural compatibility, frequency and salience of forms, mode and extent of acquisition and attrition, processing and cognitive factors, as well as speaker numbers and demography, to name a few. The empirical base has grown considerably: richly annotated multilingual and spoken corpora, controlled experimental studies of bilinguals and heritage speakers, databases that allow areal and diachronic claims to be tested at scale, and new documentation of contact varieties in under-described regions.

This conference invites contributions that study contact phenomena in syntax, morphology, phonology, phonetics, semantics, and pragmatics, with a view to advancing our understanding of how contact shapes syntactic, morphological, phonological, semantic and pragmatic phenomena and how it drives their change in language, while reflecting on the concepts, categories, and methods through which contact is studied.

We welcome work from all theoretical frameworks and all types of data sources, including observational, experimental and elicited data, as well as large-scale databases. Studies on Hungarian (or any other Uralic language) and on Romanian (or any other Romance language) are particularly encouraged, but studies of any other languages or language varieties are also welcome.

Submission guidelines

Submissions to the workshop and to the preceding main session of the ICSH taken together are limited to one individual and one joint abstract per author, or two joint abstracts per author.

Anonymous, max. two-page abstracts including data and references (with one-inch/2.5cm margins all around, in a 12-point format) should be submitted in PDF format to icsh18.conference@ubbcluj.ro.

The deadline for submission of abstracts to the workshop is **5 April 2027**.

Notification of acceptance: by 5 May 2027.

For more information on the workshop, visit the joint webpage of ICSH18 and CLT2027: https://icsh18.eu/

Organizers:

Babeș-Bolyai University (Cluj-Napoca/Kolozsvár)
Research Centre for Linguistics (Budapest)

The call for papers for ICSH18 is contained in an independent post.