Linguistics

New Directions in Colour Studies
Edited by Carole P. Biggam, Carole A. Hough, Christian J. Kay and David R. Simmons
University of Glasgow

Colour studies attracts an increasingly wide range of scholars from across the academic world. Contributions to the present volume offer a broad perspective on the field, ranging from studies of individual languages through papers on art, architecture and heraldry to psychological examinations of aspects of colour categorization, perception and preference. The chapters have been developed from papers and posters presented at a conference on Progress in Colour Studies (PICS08) held at the University of Glasgow. The volume both updates research reported at the earlier PICS04 conference (published by Benjamins in 2006 as Progress in Colour Studies volumes 1 and 2), and introduces new and exciting topics and developments in colour research. In order to make the articles maximally accessible to a multidisciplinary readership, each of the six sections following the initial theoretical papers begins with a short preface describing and drawing together the themes of the chapters within that section. There are seventeen colour illustrations.

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Preface

Colour studies as a research area is inherently multidisciplinary, attracting scholars from across the academic spectrum. Contributions to the present volume are no exception, ranging as they do from studies of individual languages through papers on art, architecture and heraldry to psychological examinations of aspects of colour categorization, perception and preference.

The chapters have been developed from papers and posters presented at Progress in Colour Studies 2008 (PICS08), a conference held at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, from 14 to 17 July 2008. The stated aim of the conference was to provide a multidisciplinary forum for discussion of recent and ongoing research, presented so as to be accessible to scholars in other disciplines. This objective has resulted in a volume divided into seven sections: 1. Theoretical issues; 2. Languages of the world; 3. Colour in society; 4. Categorical perception of colour; 5. Individual differences in colour vision; 6. Colour preference and colour meaning; 7. Colour vision science. To make the articles maximally accessible, each of Sections 2–7 begins with a short preface describing and drawing together the themes of the chapters within that section.

PICS08 continued a tradition begun with the pioneering PICS04 in 2004, which resulted in two volumes of papers (Biggam & Kay 2006; Pitchford & Biggam 2006). The second conference offered both continuity and novelty, since many people who had attended the first one returned to report on their research at the second, while others attended for the first time and introduced participants to new and exciting areas of colour research. As in 2004, we were delighted by the spread of topics covered, the high quality of the papers, and the number of nationalities represented by the speakers. Many useful contacts were made both within and across disciplines.

Running a conference draws on the goodwill and assistance of many people. We would like to thank all our speakers, and especially our keynote speaker, Prof. Fred Kingdom of McGill University, for their contributions and for their patience while awaiting the completion of this volume. For financial support, we are indebted to the Faculty of Arts and the English Language Department, University of Glasgow, and to Cambridge Research Systems. We are also grateful to Anke de Looper, our equally patient editor at Benjamins, to the reviewers of the papers for their helpful comments, to Flora Edmonds for help in preparing this volume, and to Marc Alexander and the team of students and others who helped during the conference itself. We look forward to our third conference in 2012.
Carole Biggam
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Glasgow, April 2011

References
