

Preface

This collection of essays is dedicated to Klaus von Heusinger on the occasion of his 60th birthday.

Over the years, thanks to his relentless academic activity, Klaus has created and given impulse to numerous formal and informal networks of scientists, working in linguistics and neighbouring disciplines all over the world. In many cases, these scientific collaborations developed into lasting friendships.

In planning this volume, we wanted it to reflect the range of research topics, languages, and methodologies addressed by Klaus and his colleagues, but also the richness of personal relations that emerged through these collaborations and were cemented by a genuine, evergreen curiosity in the mechanisms of human communication. We believe that the promptness of the contributors to this volume to be our accomplices in preparing this collection for Klaus was instrumental in attaining our initial goal: Klaus' research interests are richly represented in this volume, as well as his role as a trustworthy colleague and mentor.

With this Festschrift, we want to thank Klaus for what he means to us as his students, colleagues and friends. We have good reasons to hope that he will enjoy reading the various contributions: they are 60, like the years of his life we are celebrating today; they are listed alphabetically, but they quite naturally fall into thematic clusters in which Klaus' influence and inspiration can be clearly perceived. We are grateful to Klaus for the generosity which he constantly demonstrates us in sharing his ideas, concerning all aspects of academic life.

The tradition of having a Festschrift to celebrate the 60th birthday of a distinguished scholar relies on the presupposition that at that age most scientific milestones will have been achieved, most ideas will have been developed, most collaborations will have been established. In Klaus' case, this presupposition must be explicitly rejected: we would not be surprised at all in seeing him starting completely new lines of research in the next years, and creating new networks, exploring the landscape of linguistic studies in further countries, investigating new languages and new phenomena. Actually, we expect no less from him in the coming years!

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