

## Introduction

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The 2013 edition of the International Symposium on the Acquisition of Second Language Speech (New Sounds) took place on May 17-19, at Concordia University (Montreal, Canada), following the tradition initiated by Allan James and Jonathan Leather in 1990. The purpose of this international meeting is to bring together academics (e.g., theoretical and applied phonologists) and practitioners (e.g., language teachers, speech pathologists, materials designers) to discuss issues concerning the acquisition of second/foreign language (L2) pronunciation (including speech perception and production). Accordingly, some of the main purposes of New Sounds included: To provide a forum for the presentation and discussion of current research and pedagogical practices in L2 speech and thus facilitate a multidirectional flow of knowledge among researchers and the larger community; to encourage interdisciplinary research and innovative pedagogical practices in this field; and to support collaboration among L2 speech researchers and practitioners (e.g., language teachers, speech pathologists, materials designers) and consequently make the acquired knowledge more accessible to non-academic audiences.

135 papers were selected for presentation at New Sounds, from which 104 were presented as papers and 31 as posters. In addition, there were three plenary speakers: Dr. John Archibald (University of Victoria), Dr. Debra Hardison (Michigan State University), and Dr. Murray Munro

(Simon Fraser University). Of the 135 papers presented at New Sounds, 53 are included in this volume, published by the Concordia Papers in Applied Linguistics (COPAL). This collection of papers reflects the breadth of topics represented at the event, which included discussions of the effects of instruction and/or feedback on the acquisition of pronunciation skills, the benefits of computer-based technology on the acquisition of the segmental and suprasegmental aspects of speech, the representation of phonological structures in interlanguage, the perception and production of non-native speech (including featural, segmental and prosodic elements), and phonological cross-linguistic influence in the acquisition of a second or subsequent language.

The conference and this volume could not have been realized without the contribution of many individuals and organizations. The conference benefited from the support of Concordia University (Allan Shepard, Graham Carr, Christian Durand, Scott McCulloch, Jeanne Bisson, Loredana Carbone, Nancy Curran, Michele Kaplan, Amanda Christensen, Mary-Ann Jirjis, Damian Gleason, Liliane Law, Janet Thompson, Denis Parial, Lynn Roy, Kim Barbier, Dianny Kane, Candice Bruno), the Department of Education (Richard Schmid, Stef Rucco, Sara Kennedy, Joanna White), Randall Halter, LinguistList/EasyAbs (Li Zheng), the authors who carefully wrote and revised their papers in a timely manner, the reviewers, the conference chairs, and the faculty and students who supported and/or volunteered their time to help us organize this event (for a full list of names, refer to the conference program: <http://doe.concordia.ca/newsounds2013/program.html>). We are grateful to Cindy Lui and George Smith for their editorial assistance in the organization of this volume. We would also like to acknowledge the financial support of Concordia University, Tourisme Montreal, and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Finally, we would like to express our most sincere gratitude to the person behind the wheel, Rhonda Chung, the conference coordinator.