

Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics, Summer Meeting 2025

Date: 25 June 2025 – 27 June 2025 Location: UWI Mona, Jamaica (on-site presentations only)

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Email: spclsociety@gmail.com

Conference Website: <https://www.mona.uwi.edu/dllp/spcl-conference-2025>

SPCL Website: <https://www.spclsociety.com/upcoming-conferences>

Linguistic Field(s): General Linguistics

Call Deadline: **Deadline 28 February 2025**

Meeting Description:

The Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics will hold its summer meeting from June 25 to June 27, 2025, at The University of West Indies, Mona, Jamaica. The conference will be held under the theme, "Pidgin and Creole Studies in the Era of Big Data and AI". Presentations will start on the morning of the 25th and end on the evening of the 27th.

It was at Mona that the first agenda for Pidgin and Creole Studies was set at the 1959 conference organised by Robert Le Page. This agenda served the field well during the twentieth century, but a lot has changed since then in terms of global geopolitics, academia and how scholars interface with the communities they study. The practice of Creole Linguistics has also changed, and the conference will allow us to reflect on what we have achieved in almost seven decades, to assess the quality of our contribution to knowledge and the various communities we serve, and to set the agenda for the twenty-first century.

In addition, a lot is happening in the Caribbean in regard to Creole languages, with several countries discussing the introduction of bi-/multilingual education, the presence of language planning agencies in some Caribbean territories, the translation of the Old Testament into several English-related Creoles, the proposal of the opposition party in Jamaica to make the Jamaican language official if they win the next election, as well as the work of numerous nonlinguists across the region in promoting Creole languages via social media.

Abstracts for papers and panel proposals on the phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, lexicon, or any other issue pertaining to the linguistic study of Pidgins, Creoles and other contact varieties are invited for anonymous review.

We invite the submission of abstracts for poster sessions and 20-minute papers on issues in the study of the phonology, morphology, syntax, semantics, acquisition and sociology of Pidgins, Creoles, and other contact varieties. Papers and posters may cover, but are not limited to, the following suggested themes:

- Pidgins and Creoles in Education
- Digitalisation of Pidgins and Creoles
- Creole Linguistics and the Creolization of Languages
- Pidgins/Creoles and Technology in the Language Arts Classroom
- Pidgins/Creoles in Education
- Media and Language Acquisition within Pidgin/Creole Communities
- Linguistics in Formal Education

- Language Endangerment and Death in the Caribbean
- Pidgin and Creole Languages in Contact
- Language Corpora
- Machine Learning of Pidgin and Creole Languages
- Multilingualism and Translation
- Documentation of Pidgin and Creole Languages
- Pidgins/Creoles and Large Language Models
- Assistive Technologies in Pidgin/Creole Communities

Call for Papers:

Abstracts: An abstract of approximately 500 words should be submitted using [EasyAbs](https://easyabs.linguistlist.org/conference/SPCL_summer_2025/):

https://easyabs.linguistlist.org/conference/SPCL_summer_2025/

After your title, clearly identify the area in which your submission should be reviewed (e.g., morphology, sociolinguistics). Please do not include your name or other revelatory information in the abstract.

Abstract submission deadline is February 28, 2025.

Acceptance notification will be sent by March 20, 2025.

See below for information about the makeup of the abstract.

Panel proposals: Ideally, there should be no more than four papers in each panel. Each panel participant should submit an abstract and include the name of the panel in their abstract. Panel organizers should submit the following information to spclsociety@gmail.com: The name of the panel, a summary of the panel, the name of each member & their affiliation, and the presentation order. Panel proposals are also due on February 28, 2025.

Organization of the Abstract

Many abstracts are rejected because they omit crucial information. A suggested outline for abstracts follows:

1. Choose a title that clearly indicates the topic of the paper and is no more than one line long;
2. In the abstract, state the topic clearly;
3. Make reference to prior work on the topic;
4. When essential to the clarity of the argumentation, present linguistic data (with glosses). Explain abbreviations at their first occurrence;
5. If the paper presents the results of experiments, but the collection of results is not yet complete, present the provisional results in detail. Also indicate the nature of the experimental design and the specific hypothesis tested;
6. State the relevance of your hypothesis to past work. Describe the analysis in as much detail as possible. Avoid vague or unsubstantiated statements;
7. State the contribution to linguistic research made by the analysis;
8. Citation of the relevant literature is essential within the abstract; however, the inclusion of a list of references at the end of the abstract is not obligatory.

Linguistics is for Everyone (LIFE) Competition

Linguistics is for Everyone (LIFE) is a competition that is geared to introducing the public to topics in the study of language. Any conference presenter may choose to enter the competition by preparing a

five-minute audiovisual version of their paper that is structured in a way nonlinguists can understand. All entries will be shown after one of the keynote addresses, and the 1st and 2nd place winners will be announced. Prizes will be book certificates from major publishers that publish books on Pidgins and Creoles. All videos will be uploaded to the YouTube channel of the Jamaican Language Unit. If you would like to participate in the LIFE competition, please send an email to jl@uwimona.edu.jm