

# Conference Report

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## **International Pragmatics**

### **Association 2007 by Debra**

#### **J. Occhi**

The 10<sup>th</sup> IPrA (International Pragmatics Association) meetings were held 8-13 July 2007, in Göteborg, Sweden. Despite the large numbers in attendance, you couldn't throw a kiss without hitting someone working on pragmatics of Japanese, including both 'our' Donnas. It was impossible to attend all the papers that focused on Japanese, so I'll avoid the sin of omission -- or the sin of pride, by telling you about the panel I was on! -- by reporting on other papers. Here is a sample.

Ruth Wodak, "Bridging the gap between macro- and micro-Analysis: The everyday lives of members of the European parliament" Wow! Ruth is always doing great stuff. With a big-money grant from the European Union, she has been allowed to follow around a constantly time-pressed parliament member and see how things really get done...or don't. She was able to collect on-and off-stage discourse in ethnographic context of use to provide a rare insight to the workings of political decision-making.

Luisa Martin Rojo, in "How to approach the construction of inequality in multilingual classrooms?" offered a fascinating, and sad, video peek at a Spanish middle-school classroom and how privilege is reflected/inculcated/denied in teacher-student

interactions. The teacher's alignment with native-speakers as well as the 'opting out' strategies of less-fluent students provided the kind of food for thought that leaves a lump in your throat.

Susan Ehrlich, "Legal discourse and entextualization practices" A great example of how entextualization (à la Bauman & Briggs) can readily be applied to speech data, in this case of testimony in a rape trial. Ehrlich showed how entirely different kinds of spin were put on a reported event as it progressed through many retellings on its trip through through the courts. Chilling stuff.

William O. Beeman, "Emotion and instantaneous choice in interactional linguistic pragmatics: cross-cultural perspectives" Okay, he talked about Japanese a little, along with German, English, Persian, and Javanese, but what he was really talking about is the increasing cross-disciplinary connections between linguistics and other human sciences. Particularly, he argued that the same mechanism which native speakers use to make on-the-fly judgements of politeness levels and other variants in speech in interaction is potentially governed by the same cognitive mechanisms that govern emotional response.

The 11<sup>th</sup> IPrA (International Pragmatics Association) meetings will be held in Brisbane, Australia on 12-17 July 2009. The IPrA website <http://ipra.ua.ac.be/> will provide updates as information becomes available. See you there?