Introduction

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The papers and squibs in the present volume are based on presentations given at the 7th edition of SinFonIJA, held at the University of Graz from September 25-27, 2014. A subset of the presenters chose to submit their work and the papers and squibs included in the volume have been selected on the basis of their quality from the contributions received. No thematic constraints have been made on the presentations of the conference or the papers included in the volume. The Graz conference edition was anchored by key addresses offered by Daniel Büring, Regine Eckardt, Katalin É. Kiss, Anthony Kroch, and Hubert Truckenbrodt and accompanied by a competitively selected array of paper and poster presentations.

The name of the conference itself traditionally stands for syntax, phonology and language analysis. As the Graz edition and the previous successful editions demonstrate, the gatherings under this umbrella encompass a broad range of theoretically informed work, properly including, alongside syntax and phonology: semantics, pragmatics, morphology, and phonetics in a variety of languages, including sign languages. The breadth and – based on the reviews and feedback received, we have reason to believe: depth – of the contributions presented as well as of those included in the volume is an indicator of the vibrant area of theoretical linguistics in Southeastern Europe and its direct connection to the larger worldwide community. Although relatively young, the forum of SinFonIJA has thus become one of the most prominent annual events in theoretically oriented linguistics held on a regular basis in the region.

Needless to say, the Graz edition – and through it: the present volume – could not have come into existence without the help of many. We are particularly grateful to the presenters themselves who made it a lively and inspiring event and to our generous reviewers, in the process of selection for the conference as well as in its wake for the proceedings, for their thoughtful evaluation and advice to ensure the quality of the contributions. The conference has been supported by the Federal State of Styria, the City of Graz, the Vice Rector for Research and Junior Researchers’ Promotion and the Department of English Studies as part of the Faculty of Humanities. Locally, our sincere gratitude goes to Ulrike Freitag for her tireless help during the conference and in the copyediting process. We thank Martin Kopf and Anna Micheler for their involved practical help during the conference. Last but not least, a great thank you to Bernhard Hurch and Claudia Math at the Department for General Linguistics in Graz for their valuable support in publishing the current volume in the Grazer Linguistische Studien series.