ACBLPE Conference in Graz, Austria

The annual ACBLPE conference took place in Graz, Austria (7-9 July) this year, jointly with the Society of Pidgin and Creole Linguistics (SPCL).

Of the approximately 70 papers given at the conference, 53 ACBLPE members were involved in those presentations. Thus, our Association was very well represented at the meeting.

The day before the conference (6 July), as well as the day after (10 July), ACBLPE organized workshop sessions for conference participants who wanted to receive an introduction to the extensive Hugo Schuchardt archives housed at the University of Graz (the archive home page is accessible at http://schuchardt.uni-graz.at/). A total of 12 colleagues participated in the workshops.

The evening before the conference, Bernhard Hurch welcomed conferences participants on behalf of the University of Graz with a beautiful dinner at the Villa Malwine, the erstwhile home of Hugo Schuchardt, who is generally considered the father of creole linguistics.

We had two key note presenters. To launch the conference Hugo Cardoso (University of Lisboa) gave an address entitled “Schuchardt's archive and the 'lost' Asian-Portuguese creoles”, in which he discussed materials found in the Schuchardt Archive and their contribution to the understanding of diversity of the Portuguese-based creoles in Asia. As an exclamation point on the last day of the conference, Susanne Michaelis (Max Planck Institute of Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig) presented the paper “The Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Language Structures: A more complete picture of creole typology”, highlighting what the data from the APICs contribute to the understanding of the typology of pidgins and creoles.

The superb effort and execution of the Local Organizing Committee in all aspects of organizing the conference is greatly appreciated. We sincerely thank them for their support and all their work.

Next year (2016), ACBLPE will hold its conference in Santiago, Cape Verde. As always, all are encouraged to submit abstracts. The first call for papers will go out in December of this year. In 2017, ACBLPE is planning the annual conference in Stockholm. We are very much looking forward to that conference, as well.