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# American Name Society *Bulletin*

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## ANS 2022 Annual Meeting

January 21-23, 2022

The American Name Society Annual Meeting for 2022 will be held online using the Zoom platform. It is accessible via Mac or PC, or using the Zoom app on a phone or tablet. Each paper will be presented by the author, with time for Q&A after the presentation. The Name of the Year discussion and vote will be held on Sunday, organized and moderated by Deb Walker. You can find instructions for Name of the Year nominations in this newsletter!

We have been working hard to set up a schedule that will work globally, and this means that some presenters will be scheduled at times outside of normal working hours. The entire conference will be recorded so that registered attendees will have the opportunity to see presentations that they may have missed.

Please register for the conference at this link:

<https://www.americannamesociety.org/conferences/ans-2022-annual-conference-registration/>. The cost is US\$25 for students and US\$50 for all others.

We look forward to seeing you all at the conference!

Laurel Sutton

# Call for Nominations for 2021 Names of the Year

The American Name Society requests nominations for the “Names of the Year for 2021.”

The names selected will be ones that best illustrate, through their creation and/or use during the past 12 months, important trends in the culture of the United States. It is not necessary, however, for a nominated name to have originated in the US. Any name can be nominated as long as it has been prominent in North American cultural discourse during the past year.

Nominations are called for in the following categories:

- **Personal Names:** Names or nicknames of individual real people or individual animals.
- **Place Names:** Names or nicknames of any real geographical location, including all natural features, political subdivisions, streets, and buildings. Names of national or ethnic groups based on place names could be included here.
- **Trade Names:** Names of real commercial products, as well as names of both for-profit and non-profit incorporated companies and organizations, including businesses and universities.
- **Artistic & Literary Names:** Names of fictional persons, places, or institutions, in any written, oral, or visual medium, as well as titles of art works, books, plays, television programs, or movies. Such names are deliberately given by the creator of the work.
- **E-Names:** Names of persons, figures, places, products, businesses, institutions, operations, organizations, platforms, and movements that exist in the virtual world.

- **Miscellaneous Names:** Any name which does not fit in the above five categories, such as names created by linguistic errors, names of particular inanimate objects, names of unorganized political movements, names of languages, etc. In most cases, such items would be capitalized in everyday English orthography.

Winners will be chosen in each category, and then a final vote will determine the overall Name of the Year for 2021. Anyone may nominate a name. All members of the American Name Society attending the annual meeting will select the winner from among the nominees at the annual ANS meeting on January 21-23, 2022.

You can access the nomination form here:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/FRZ6NG6>

Advance nominations must be received before January 15, 2022. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the annual meeting. You can also send your nominations, along with a brief rationale, by email to Deborah Walker: [debwalk@gmail.com](mailto:debwalk@gmail.com).

## ANS News

### And the Winner is . . . : The 2020 Winner of the *Names* Best Article of the Year Award

Over the past few months, the Editorial Board of *Names* has selected the winner of the Best Article of the Year 2020. All articles which appeared in *Names* 2020 were eligible for the coveted prize and were rated for their creativity and originality; potential scholarly contribution to onomastics; as well as their writing style and organization.

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In the first round of deliberations, the following four articles received the highest number of votes were “Harry, You Must Stop Living in the Past:” Names as Acts of Recall in John Updike’s Rabbit Angstrom by Peter Backhaus; Women’s Marital Surname Change by Bride’s Age and Jurisdiction of Residence: A Replication by Melanie MacEacheron; Corpus Linguistic Onomastics: A Plea for a Corpus-Based Investigation of Names by Heiko Motschenbacher; and “Simplex Generic Toponyms in Four English-speaking Jurisdictions” by Jan Tent.

In a second round of voting, the members of the Editorial Board chose their favorite from those four outstanding candidates. Although the choice was difficult given the exceptional quality and diversity of all four contributions, after the votes were tallied a clear winner emerged.

This winner of the 2020 Best Article of the Year Award is Dr. Heiko Motschenbacher of Western Norway University of Applied Sciences. For his exemplary work, Dr. Motschenbacher will not only receive a special commemorative plaque, but he will be invited to give a guest lecture on his research at the upcoming annual meeting of the ANS. A detailed report on this year’s deliberations can be found in the upcoming Winter issue of *Names*.

On behalf of the *Names* Editorial Board and the general membership of the American Name Society, my congratulations go to both Dr. Motschenbacher and the other three finalists for their outstanding contributions to the scholarly investigation of names and naming.

I.M. Nick

## An Interview with Heiko Motschenbacher, Winner of the 2020 *Names* Best Article of the Year Award



Dr. Motschenbacher is an English professor at Western Norway University of Applied Sciences in Bergen, Norway. He is the founder and co-editor of the “Journal of Language and Sexuality”(with William L. Leap). Since November 2017, he has conducted research as a part of a prestigious Marie Curie Global Fellowship Award granted by the European Union. After receiving the news of winning the 2020 NAMES Award for Best Article of the Year, Dr. Motschenbacher kindly agreed to give *Names* Editor-in-Chief, I. M. Nick, an e-interview about his research for the readers of our ANS newsletter. Below is an excerpt from that interview. A longer version can be found on the NAMES website.

### **What onomastic issue are you currently researching?**

Recently, I conducted a corpus-based study of the grammatical behavior of English country names, and I have argued in favor of using corpus linguistic methods for studying names.

*cont'd p. 4*

My future work is likely to investigate how personal names are used in ELT textbooks.

### **What is your favorite book on names and naming?**

Brendler, Andrea; Brendler, Silvio (eds) (2007): *Europäische Personennamensysteme: Ein Handbuch von Abasisch bis Zentralladinisch*. Hamburg: Baar. This book is an excellent handbook for insights on European personal name systems.

### **Whom did you first tell about receiving the ANS award for best article of the year?**

I was on the phone when the e-mail with the good news arrived. So I could not help but coincidentally disclose it to the person on the other end of the line.

## **Recent Onomastic Presentations and Publications**

ANS President Laurel Sutton was featured in the Linguistic Society of America's October Member Spotlight: <https://www.linguisticsociety.org/content/october-2021-member-spotlight-laurel-sutton>. The interview covers her work with the ANS and with the LSA SIG Linguistics Beyond Academia, which helps prepare linguistics students for work in industry. The SIG held a Linguistics Career launch (<https://www.linguisticscareerlaunch.com/>) this summer, a 4-week career "boot camp" made up of presentations, workshops, and courses. Careers in professional naming were featured!

Maryann Parada, ANS member and Personal Names SIG leader, was interviewed by the media team for the Los Angeles Galaxy for commentary on the name "Landon", which they used in their

media campaign as part of their celebration of former legendary player "Landon Donovan" whose statue was recently unveiled followed by his induction in the Ring of Honor.

### **New Onomastic Titles**

"Anthroponymic Perseverance of Spanish Vestigial <x>" in Chappell and Drinka (Eds.) *Spanish Socio-historical Linguistics: Isolation and Contact* by Maryann Parada  
John Benjamins

*Historical Implications of Jewish Surnames in the Old Kingdom of Romania* (The Joseph and Rebecca Meyerhoff Center for Jewish Studies: Studies and Texts in Jewish History and Culture)  
by Alexander Avram  
Penn State University Press

*Names and Naming: Multicultural Aspects*  
edited by Oliviu Felecan and Alina Bugheșiu  
Palgrave Macmillan

## **Still Looking for a Few Outstanding Onomasts: Join the *Names* Editorial Board!**

ANS Editorial Board is looking for reviewers to join the team of the *Names* Editorial Board. In particular, we are searching for onomastic scholars who have expertise in toponymy and corpus linguistics. Given the large number of manuscripts *Names* receives from authors investigating onomastic phenomena outside of the English-speaking world, fluency in a language other than English is also a major asset.

If you are interested in joining the *Names* Editorial Board, please submit an application found at the following link:

<https://nick662.typeform.com/to/P6dzaz>

## Book Titles and Reviewers Wanted!

ANS members and publishers continue to recommend titles for review, and there are more than a dozen books currently in the hands of reviewers. Books on place names and surnames tend to dominate, but books on literary names, names in gazetteers, scientific names, and cultural anthologies are among those recently published. Within the onomastic community, several of these are by our own ANS members. Some publishers moved to electronic-only review copies during the pandemic—or perhaps it is more that the pandemic accelerated a change that had been building in any case—but most are still supplying hard copies at the request of reviewers.

New titles and new reviewers are always welcome. Feel free to contact Christine De Vinne at [cdevinne@ursuline.edu](mailto:cdevinne@ursuline.edu).

## In Memoriam 2021

We lost three important members of the onomastics community in 2021. We honor their memory and their accomplishments. Full obituaries can be found on the ANS website.

Edwin D. Lawson (1923-2021), past ANS president

Ronald Butters (1940-2021)

Lynn Westney (1947-2021)

## ANS Anniversary

The American Name Society was founded in 1951, meaning we are 70 years old! To celebrate this milestone, we will hold a special one-hour session at the Annual Meeting to discuss our long history, our accomplishments, our highlights, and give members a look into the future of our Society. Stay tuned for more details!

# 2021 ANS Executive Council



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