

American Name Society

Annual Meeting 2026



ONLINE
21 February 2026

American Name Society

Founded Detroit, Michigan, December 29, 1951
Incorporated under the laws of the State of Illinois, 1952

The American Name Society is a professional organization devoted to the study of names and their role in society. Information concerning membership, which includes a subscription to *NAMES: A Journal of Onomastics*, may be found at the society website:

<http://www.americannamesociety.org>

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**American Name Society
Annual Meeting Schedule**

21 February 2026

(All times appear in Eastern US / Pacific US Time)

9:15 am / 6:15 am **Welcome and Opening Remarks**

Brandon Simonson (Boston University, USA), President, American Name Society

9:30 am / 6:30 am **First Session: Names in Discourse and the Transmission of Knowledge**

Star Vanguri (Nova Southeastern University, USA) — Presider

Emilia Aldrin (Halmstad University, Sweden) — “Names in contemporary written discourse: sociopragmatic functions in the context of educational resources”

Irina Martynenko (RUDN University and Kutafin Moscow State Law University, Russia) — “Place names in the Latin American literary discourse”

10:30 am / 7:30 am **Second Session: Structure and Creativity in Naming Practices**

Tristan Alphey (University of Oxford, UK) — Presider

Elsi Kaiser (University of Southern California, USA) — “On the linguistic structure of paint color names: Kale green, slow green or green sprout?”

F. Nihan Ketrez (Istanbul Bilgi University, Turkey) — “Breed, Language, and Word Formation in the Names of Thoroughbreds in Turkey”

11:30 am / 8:30 am Break

12:00 pm / 9:00 am **Third Session: Forensic Onomastics**

I.M. Nick (Germanic Society for Forensic Linguistics, Germany) —
Presider

Amira Hanafi Elzohiery (Cairo University, Egypt) — “From Notorious
Nicknames to Criminal Archetypes: The Antonomasia of *Al-Khott*, *Al-
Tourbini*, and *Al-Mustarih* in Egyptian News Discourse”

Linnea Gustafsson (Halmstad University, Sweden), Per Klang (Halmstad
University, Sweden), and Malin Klang (Uppsala University, Sweden) —
“Names and Anonymizers in the Context of Crime in Online News Texts”

Tereza Klemensová (University of Ostrava, Czechia) and Michal Místecký
(University of Ostrava, Czechia) — “Onomastics of Extremism: A
Collocation Analysis of Selected Names in Anders Breivik’s Manifesto”

1:30 pm / 10:30 am **Fourth Session: Names, Authority, and Power**

Brandon Simonson (Boston University, USA) — Presider

Rik De Busser (National Chengchi University, Taiwan) — “Toponyms and
the creation of a Taiwanese Indigenous village”

Cari Didion (Governors State University, USA) & Michel Nguessan
(Governors State University, USA) — “Onomastic Conflicts in Maritime
Spaces: “Gulf of Mexico or America?” and Other Naming Battles at Sea”

2:30 pm / 11:30 am Presentation of Awards

3:00 pm / 12:00 pm ANS Committees Meeting

3:30 pm / 12:30 pm **Fifth Session: Diversity in Youth Literature**

I.M. Nick (Germanic Society for Forensic Linguistics, Germany) —
Presider

Edcel Javier Cintron-Gonzalez (Illinois State University, USA) and
Adriana De Persia Colón (Independent Researcher) — “My name is not
“Ivy-Liz,” it’s “Iveliz”: Authors' Naming Practices and Negotiation of
Space in Latinx Youth Literature”

Sharon N. Obasi (University of Nebraska at Kearney, USA) — “The
Power of Naming: Identity and Immigration in Youth Literature”

Susan Behrens (Marymount Manhattan College, USA) — “Support, Hope, and Strength Through Naming in Fiction for Young Readers: Young Protagonists Harnessing Names to Survive Powerlessness”

5:00 pm / 2:00 pm

Sixth Session: Names, Identity, and Social Meaning

Anne Anderson (Independent Researcher/Scholar, USA) — Presider

Mary Ann Walter (University of the Virgin Islands, USA) — “One name, two names, red names, blue names”

Charlie Farrington (Virginia Tech, USA), Sarah Boudreau (Virginia Tech, USA), Grace Bush (Virginia Tech, USA), Ethan Peterson (Virginia Tech, USA), Drake Webb (Virginia Tech, USA), Chuck Corra (Independent Researcher), and Abby Walker (Virginia Tech, USA) — ““This is how you correctly say Appalachia’: Regional pronunciation differences and metalinguistic awareness across Appalachia”

6:00 pm / 3:00 pm

ANS Executive Council Meeting (All are welcome)

7:00 pm / 4:00 pm

Closing

Brandon Simonson (Boston University, USA)

Business Meeting and Awards

- 1) Call to Order
- 2) Announcements
- 3) Awards
 - a) Article of the Year Award
 - b) Emerging Scholar Award
- 4) Recognition of Outgoing Officers
- 5) ANS-EC Reports
 - a) Officers' Reports
 - b) President's Report, Brandon Simonson
 - c) Vice President's Report, Brandon Simonson
 - d) Secretary's Report, Star Vanguri
 - e) Name of the Year Coordinator's Report, Laurel Sutton
 - f) Allied Conference Coordinator's Report, Anne Anderson
 - g) Treasurer's Report, Saundra Wright
 - h) Membership Officer's Report, Sharon Obasi
 - i) Editor's Report, I.M. Nick
 - j) Book Editor's Report, Chris De Vinne
 - k) Information Officer's Report, T.K. Alphey
 - l) Members-at-Large Report
 - i) Terhi Ainiala
 - ii) Rebekah Ingram
 - iii) David Wade
- 6) Special Interest Group Reports
 - a) Personal Names, Maryann Parada
 - b) Trade Names, Mirko Casagrande
 - c) Place Names, Sharon Obasi
 - d) Literary Names, Susan Behrens
- 7) Election
 - a) Member-at-large
 - i) Terhi Ainiala
- 8) New Business
 - a) Funding and Revenue Discussion
 - b) ANS Code of Conduct
- 9) Adjournment

Abstracts

Aldrin, Emilia

Title:

“Names in contemporary written discourse: sociopragmatic functions in the context of educational resources”

Abstract:

This presentation will focus on socioprogramatic functions of name usage in the context of contemporary, written non-fictional texts. More precisely, it discusses the highly authoritative discursive genre of textbooks used in schools (Fairclough 2010, Gray 2016), which poses the consequences of name choices to a head as they may influence the minds of young people (see Macintyre & Hamilton 2010, Keller & Franzak 2016). The overall research question to be discussed is: How are names used in textbook discourse and what are the textual (sociopragmatic) functions of names in this context? The study combines theoretical insights from pragmatics (Sacks 1992[1971], Sacks & Schlegoff 1979, Downing 1996), socioonomastics (Ainiala 2016, Ainiala & Östman 2017, Aldrin 2016, Nübling 2023) and literary onomastics (Debus 2002, Ainiala & Ameal 2017) in order to outline an analytical framework for the study of sociopragmatic naming in written discourses. The identified sociopragmatic functions include: name usage providing referential knowledge, signalling character status, encouraging reader engagement, underlining authority, and accentuating / anonymizing identities. A number of authentic data examples will be presented as basis for the discussion. The examples are drawn from a recently concluded project on naming in educational resources, including Swedish primary school textbooks (subjects Swedish, Social Science and Mathematics) covering almost a Century, although this presentation will focus primarily on contemporary data. However, the identified sociopragmatic functions are most likely relevant for other written, non-fictional text genres as well and could provide a basis for studies in for example media studies etc.

Biography:

Emilia Aldrin (Associate Professor of Swedish Linguistics) researches how naming and labelling is used to express and negotiate identities, social positionings and social norms, with specific attention to dimensions of gender, diversity, social class, as well as pragmatics. Her research interests also include critical text analyses, multimodality and school perspectives.

Behrens, Susan

Title:

“Support, Hope, and Strength Through Naming in Fiction for Young Readers: Young Protagonists Harnessing Names to Survive Powerlessness”

Abstract:

Today’s fiction for young adult readers includes a cohort of protagonists who are facing profound powerlessness in the face of poverty, exploitation, and other societal inequities. These teenage literary figures need coping strategies, and naming proves to be a critical resource to them. Three onomastic strands arise in the books in this presentation. The first strand finds young people gaining support through naming doubles. People with related names offer transformative parallels in their respective worlds and allow the young protagonists to create crucial support groups for themselves, allowing them to fight more confidently and effectively. The second strand finds protagonists renaming themselves to take on new identities for a better future. By adopting a new, sometimes fantastical moniker, they can lift themselves out of oppression and inequality, if only temporarily, for necessary relief. Finally, in the third strand, teenage story characters unleash the power that comes from breaking through the oppressive forces that seek to control them via inaccurate labels and instead embrace their true names, sometimes claiming their original names with new potential and hope. Their personal and societal triumphs come from discovering who they really are, by shedding wrong, sometimes dangerous labels and naming their authentic selves. All three strands illustrate the centrality of names as a survival tool in young people’s lives. The existence of such weighty subjects as in books for young readers offers a narrative approach to educating and encouraging social activism in these readers.

Biography:

Susan J. Behrens is Professor of Linguistics at Marymount Manhattan College. Her texts include *Grammar: A Pocket Guide*, as well as *Language in the Real World* and *Understanding Language Use in the Classroom*. She co-founded Marymount’s Center for Teaching Innovation and Excellence and is on the editorial board of *Names*.

Cintron-Gonzalez, Edcel Javier and Adriana De Persia Colón

Title:

“My name is not “Ivy-Liz,” it’s “Iveliz””: Authors' Naming Practices and Negotiation of Space in Latinx Youth Literature”

Abstract:

In the YA novel *With the Fire on High*, Elizabeth Acevedo engages in naming practices that attend to histories of attempted erasure and assimilation. She draws relations by negotiating and leveraging name choices with care, crafting characters who must decide what their names will mean and therefore their space and place in the world. She does this by engaging the reader with the protagonist Emoni, a young teenager and single mother who is constantly negotiating her purpose throughout the novel. Similarly, in the middle grade verse novel *Iveliz Explains It All*, Andrea Beatriz Arango engages in naming practices as a way to reclaim space as the protagonist, Iveliz, emphasizes the pronunciation and meaning of names, including hers, and why making them palatable to the dominant culture is not an option. As the characters grow, their names and relations to themselves and to the world take new meanings. Thus, names are not static but in constant flux. While Acevedo and Arango’s books are marketed as youth fiction, their writing and the way they engage in their naming practices through their work represents ways that Latinx characters resist assimilation practices. Both Emoni and Iveliz resignify their names by taking up space, refusing to silence themselves, and negotiating their relationships with their names as a way to reclaim space and culture as part of their name and identity.

Biographies:

Edcel Javier Cintron-Gonzalez is a proud Puerto Rican and a Ph.D. Candidate in English Studies with a specialization in Children’s and YA Literature at Illinois State University. Edcel is the author of *Irma, Maria, Fiona, and Me* (2023) published in *PRESS 254/Spoonfuls*, and a 2024 *TedxNormal* speaker.

Adriana De Persia Colón has a PhD in Education from the University of Cambridge, an MA in English Education from the University of Puerto Rico at Mayagüez, and a BMS in Touristic Culture from the University of Puerto Rico at Carolina. Adriana is from Puerto Rico.

De Busser, Rik

Title:

“Toponyms and the creation of a Taiwanese Indigenous village”

Abstract:

This talk explores how the complex layering of toponyms in the village of Rinari in Pingtung County, Taiwan, is a result of its relatively recent creation and, to some extent, reflects the intricate power relations between Indigenous communities and various external governmental and non-governmental organizations.

Rinari is a planned village, inhabited by both Paiwan and Rukai people. It was constructed by the Taiwanese government and various NGOs in the aftermath of Typhoon Morakot in 2009. The devastation it had left prompted the government to resettle multiple Indigenous communities in the mountains of Southern Taiwan to lower-lying areas, often outside their ancestral lands. The village of Rinari was constructed for this purpose. Situated on land that traditionally belonged to the Paiwan, it had been initially earmarked for resettlement by a Rukai community, but now had to accommodate additional populations from three Paiwan villages.

This talk discusses how this interaction between Indigenous and non-Indigenous agents resulted in a complex combination of endonymous and exonymous toponymic systems that are not fully compatible. We investigate the interactions between official naming schemes, traditional toponyms that predate them, and Indigenous toponyms introduced by the resettled communities. We further explore how this influences the linguistic landscape in which these communities find themselves, as a result of events and decisions largely outside their control.

Biography:

Rik De Busser is an associate professor at National Chengchi University in Taipei, Taiwan. A descriptive linguist, he specializes in the Austronesian languages of Taiwan. His interests include language description in Taiwan and the Pacific, and the interaction between grammar, meaning, and the social and physical environment.

Didion, Cari and Michel Nguessan

Title:

“Onomastic Conflicts in Maritime Spaces: “Gulf of Mexico or America?” and Other Naming Battles at Sea”

Abstract:

Maritime placenames are deeply embedded in the politics of sovereignty and international law, often serving as instruments of territorial assertion and diplomatic leverage. This article examines onomastic conflicts in maritime spaces, beginning with the rhetorical provocation of renaming the “Gulf of Mexico” as the “Gulf of America” to illustrate how nomenclature shapes perceptions of ownership, jurisdiction, and legitimacy. Through comparative analysis of major contested maritime toponyms—including the Persian Gulf versus Arabian Gulf, the Sea of Japan versus East Sea, and the South China Sea versus West Philippine Sea—the study highlights the ways in which naming disputes intersect with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS), Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) claims, and regional security rivalries. Special attention is given to the role of the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) and the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (UNGEGN), whose standards and resolutions carry significant implications for diplomacy, cartography, and dispute resolution. The paper also considers how digital mapping platforms and international maritime advisories normalize particular names, further reinforcing or challenging state narratives. By situating maritime naming disputes within the frameworks of international relations, law of the sea, and global governance, the article demonstrates that contested toponyms are not symbolic quarrels but critical components of geopolitical strategy and legal positioning in contested waters.

Biographies:

Professor Michel Nguessan is an Associate Professor of Library and Information Science at Governors State University, in Illinois. He has academic background and research interest in linguistics/onomastics, software engineering and computer science, library and information science and port/maritime management. He graduated from universities in Côte-d’Ivoire, the USA and Canada.

Professor Cari Didion is an Associate Professor of Library and Information Science at Governors State University, in Illinois. She has an academic background in science education, library and information science, and higher education leadership. She holds master’s degrees from the University of Georgia and San Jose State University and is currently pursuing a doctorate in Interdisciplinary Leadership Studies.

Elzohiery, Amira Hanafi

Title:

“From Notorious Nicknames to Criminal Archetypes: The Antonomasia of *Al-Khott*, *Al-Tourbini*, and *Al-Mustarih* in Egyptian News Discourse”

Abstract:

This study investigates the phenomenon of antonomasia exemplified by the notorious nicknames of three Egyptian criminals. Their names have evolved into criminal archetypes in Egyptian news across decades. The three criminals are “*Al-Khott*” (a notorious gangster and serial killer, died in 1947), “*Al-Tourbini*” (a child rapist and serial killer, detained in 2006), and “*Al-Mustarih*” (a large-scale financial fraudster, arrested in 2015). These nicknames are associated with three high-profile cases which have shaken the public opinion in Egypt for years; they ignited societal controversy and inspired movie adaptations. Their nicknames are still utilized in media and daily discourse to refer to similar criminals instead of mentioning the original names of the new criminals in news headlines. Using Fairclough’s three-dimensional Model (1989) and diachronic analysis, the study qualitatively analyzes randomly selected news headlines from 1948 until 2025 and from different news publications. The study explains how the three nicknames underwent a semantic shift from antonomasia into fixed archetypes and explores their recurrent collocates. The findings highlight the role of the media in embedding these antonomastic eponyms in the collective mindset of Egyptians and perpetuating stigmas which shame the criminals’ families permanently and dehumanize the new criminals.

Biography:

Dr. Amira Hanafi Elzohiery holds a PhD in Applied Linguistics (2020) from Cairo University. Dr. Elzohiery’s dissertation explored language use and hypertextual features in hashtag campaigns on X (formerly Twitter). Dr. Elzohiery teaches phonetics, morphology, syntax, pragmatics, and corpus linguistics. Dr. Elzohiery’s current research focuses on corpus methods, discourse analysis, and language change in texts and speech.

Farrington, Charlie, Sarah Boudreau, Grace Bush, Ethan Peterson, Drake Webb, Chuck Corra, and Abby Walker

Title:

“This is how you correctly say Appalachia’: Regional pronunciation differences and metalinguistic awareness across Appalachia”

Abstract:

Place name pronunciations can index a local identity, especially with notions of correctness and incorrectness (Read 1933). In the Appalachian region of the United States, popular discussions surrounding the pronunciation of both *Appalachia* and *Appalachian* are often framed as being part of a north/south distinction (Appalachian Today 2023) or local in-group/out-group (Puckett 2000), with ideologies about correctness. Since the publication of Walls’ (1977) “On the naming of Appalachia”, the region has become more culturally relevant, with locals now self-identifying as Appalachian (Cooper et al. 2011). The Appalachian region is made up of 423 counties from Mississippi to New York States, with 26.4 million residents (Appalachian Regional Commission). With a geography that spans several dialect regions (Labov et al. 2006), it is no surprise that local pronunciations of the same label vary as well.

We discuss data collected as part of Appodlachia’s Appalachian Accent project. Participants were asked to record a voice memo and submit it to the podcast detailing how they pronounced the regional name. The resulting corpus includes over 1500 recordings from across the 423 counties of Appalachia. We first focus on the geographic distribution of pronunciation of the penultimate syllable in both Appalachia and Appalachian: Is the vowel TRAP or FACE and is the consonant CH or SH? Overall, the Appa-LATCH-ia pronunciation accounts for 85% of the data, while the Appa-LAYSH-ia pronunciation accounts for just 14% of the data, primarily from non-Southern states. Additionally, we report on metalinguistic commentary about correctness across subregions of Appalachia.

References

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Walls, David S. 1977. On the naming of Appalachia. In *An Appalachian Symposium* (pp. 56-76). Appalachian State University Press.

Biographies:

Charlie Farrington is a visiting assistant professor in the Department of English at Virginia Tech. His research focuses on sociolinguistic variation and change in dialects of American English. He maintains the Corpus of Regional African American Language and the Online Resources for African American Language.

Sarah Boudreau is currently an undergraduate student at Virginia Tech, where she is majoring in Psychology and minoring in Language Sciences. She works as a research assistant for the Speech Lab at Virginia Tech.

Grace Bush is currently an undergraduate student at Virginia Tech majoring in English Literature and minoring in Language Sciences. She works as a research assistant in the Speech Lab at Virginia Tech.

Ethan Peterson is currently an undergraduate student at Virginia Tech majoring in applied computational mathematics and minoring in geographic information systems (GIS) and language sciences. He works in the Speech Lab at Virginia Tech.

Drake Webb is currently an undergraduate student at Virginia Tech from rural southwestern Virginia. Majoring in Spanish with a minor in Language Sciences, he currently works as a research assistant in the Virginia Tech Speech Lab.

Chuck Corra is the co-founder of Appodlachie—a podcast and media platform providing a progressive voice for the Appalachian region. Chuck started the Appodlachie podcast with former co-host Big John Isner in 2019 as a counter-narrative to the negative portrayal of Appalachia in media and pop culture, and to be a voice for progressive causes throughout the region. Chuck is a native West Virginian who lives in Chattanooga, TN.

Abby Walker is an Associate Professor of Language Sciences in the Department of English at Virginia Tech. She co-directs the Speech Lab at Virginia Tech, is an Associate Editor for *Laboratory Phonology*, and is supported by funding from the National Science Foundation. She is from Christchurch, New Zealand.

Gustafsson, Linnea, Per Klang, and Malin Klang

Title:

“Names and Anonymizers in the Context of Crime in Online News Texts”

Abstract:

This paper examines the use of anonymizers—i.e., name-substitutions that conceal the identity of a suspect or convict—in Swedish news reports on crime. Two questions guide the analysis: (1) what kind of anonymizers are used in Swedish news texts, and (2) how does the use of names and anonymizers change from the time of the arrest, detainment, remand (in custody), and sentence (to prison)? Positioned at the intersection of linguistics, media studies, and social science, the study draws on theoretical perspectives from all three disciplines. Concepts such as “agenda setting” and “framing” are used to discuss the societal impact of media coverage, while the term “representation” is employed to analyze how anonymizers may convey certain kinds of characterizations. Using quantitative corpus-linguistic methods combined with qualitative analysis, three categories of anonymizers were identified based on the suspect/convict’s age, residence/origin, and modus operandi. The results show that while anonymity is typically maintained, the likelihood of news reports with proper names is larger in the case of arrest and imprisonment. Overall, the findings demonstrate that anonymization in media discourse is a linguistically and socially meaningful practice that shapes how criminals are represented and perceived by the public.

Biographies:

Linnea Gustafsson holds a PhD in Scandinavian languages and was appointed as a full professor in Swedish at Halmstad University in 2024. She has a special research interest in personal and commercial names. Recently, she has broadened her interests to impoliteness in Twitter (X) as well as forensic linguistics.

Per Klang holds a PhD in Scandinavian languages and is employed as a postdoctoral researcher in Scandinavian languages at Halmstad University. He earned his PhD in 2023 with a dissertation on incongruous tense use in Swedish and has broad scholarly interests, with particular emphasis on empirical research.

Malin Klang holds a Master of Science in Computer Science. She works as a system developer at the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology, Computational Biology and Bioinformatics, at Uppsala University. She has a background in research infrastructure for computational linguistics and a general interest in language technology.

Kaiser, Elsi

Title:

“On the linguistic structure of paint color names: Kale green, slow green or green sprout?”

Abstract:

Color words are a rich source of onomastic information: In addition to basic color adjectives (e.g. red, green, Berlin & Kay 1969), domains like paint and cosmetics use **color names** like ‘Kale Green’, ‘Friendly Yellow’ and ‘Chivalry Copper.’ There is linguistic work on basic color adjectives (e.g. Kennedy & McNally 2008, Levinson 2000, Steinvall 2002), but color name research is often marketing-oriented (e.g. Miller & Kahn 2005, Chou et al. 2020, but Tent 2018). We present a linguistically-informed analysis of 6000+ paint names from six US and UK-based paint companies.

To gain insights into the structure of paint names, we looked at names with color terms in first/second position (e.g. **Blue** Sky vs. Sky **Blue**). We identified four main types. (1) Adjectival: color words are adjectives *modifying* nouns (e.g. White Snow, Blue Horizon, Green Sprout), in line with English nominal syntax. (2) Noun+color: the color word is *modified by* a noun (often semantically associated), e.g. Kale Green, Chalk White (association can be indirect: Summer White). (3) Human adjective+color: In this large set, colors are modified by adjectives used for animates (e.g. Lazy Gray, Brave Purple, Friendly Yellow). (4) Visual adjective+color: Surprisingly, modification by color-appropriate adjectives (e.g. Bright Yellow) is rare. We hypothesize novel noun+color compounds and human-trait attributions are frequent because they yield eye-catching names while allowing some color identifiability.

Our other analyses offer new insights into paint names’ part-of-speech (e.g. *Acorn*, *Intuitive*, *Ponder*), identifiability/metaphorical uses (e.g. *Patience* vs. *Snow*), and morphological structure (e.g. *Greige* (gray+beige), *Grayish*).

Biography:

Elsi Kaiser is a Professor of Linguistics at the University of Southern California. Her research focuses on sentence comprehension and production, especially in domains involving multiple aspects of linguistic representation (syntax, semantics, pragmatics), as well as the interfaces between language and other aspects of human cognition.

Ketrez, F. Nihan

Title:

“Breed, Language, and Word Formation in the Names of Thoroughbreds in Turkey”

Abstract:

Thoroughbred horse names hold a special status among animal names. Because they must be legally unique, they often push the limits of naming creativity. Regular and simple names have already been registered; therefore, horse owners tend to choose highly creative and unusually long names.

This study examined the names of a random selection of Arabian and English thoroughbreds ($n = 629$) currently active in races in Turkey. Their names were analyzed in terms of language—classified as Turkish (e.g., *Balık Kız* ‘fish girl’), foreign (e.g., *Henna Girl*), or mixed (e.g., *Baba Runner* ‘father runner’)—and length in characters. They were further categorized according to their morpho(syntactic) structure as (i) monomorphemic/simplex names (e.g., *Kros*), (ii) derived names (e.g., *Bewitched*), (iii) compounds (e.g., *Snowstorm*), (iv) phrases (e.g., *Time to Shine*), and (v) sentences (e.g., *Keep Your Distance*).

The results show that breed influences naming language: Arabian horses are more likely to have Turkish names, while English thoroughbreds more often carry foreign ones. Language choice also affects name length, with Arabian horses having shorter names on average. Despite these differences, both languages employ similar word-formation strategies in comparable proportions, with compounding being the most frequent.

This study contributes to the crosslinguistic literature on animal naming practices by exploring the extent to which breed differences shape naming strategies.

Biography:

F. Nihan Ketrez is a linguist working on Turkish morphosyntax and child language acquisition. She is interested in pet and infant-/child-directed speech, in particular, address terms and address patterns. As a part of this research agenda, she is studying pet names as well as other animal names and sociolinguistic motivations behind them.

Klemensová, Tereza and Michal Místecký

Title:

“Onomastics of Extremism: A Collocation Analysis of Selected Names in Anders Breivik’s Manifesto”

Abstract:

This contribution presents a collocation analysis of selected collective proper names (labelled as NORP) in “2083: A European Declaration of Independence”, a manifesto by Norwegian mass murderer Anders Breivik, with the aim of uncovering how antagonistic group identities are linguistically constructed in it. The analysis focuses on five high-frequency NORP entities (lemmatized as “muslim”, “christian”, “european”, “islamic”, and “marxist”). Their collocational profiles were extracted using the logDice association measure, with a fixed span of ± 5 tokens and frequency thresholds of collocates and collocations set to 10. The strongest collocational similarity is observed between “islamic” and “muslim”, as well as between “christian” and “muslim”, indicating that Breivik constructs antagonism primarily along religious rather than civilizational lines. The shared collocates of “christian” and “muslim” construe the relationship between these two groups in explicitly warlike terms (“war”, “jihad”). A violent framework of coexistence is foregrounded, alongside an emphasis on Islam as a force of coercion and conversion (“kill”, “convert”). The collocates “community” and “minority” indicate that Breivik conceptualizes the opposing sides as discrete units with rigid boundaries. Last but not least, hapax collocates (= those occurring with one NORP entity solely) were analyzed on the grounds of semantic categories. Most of them were tagged as social interaction words and proper names. Besides this, the collocates of “islamic” and “marxist” show political framing (“traitor”, “propaganda”, “revolution”), “european” associates with temporal words (“new”, “future”, “phase”), while “muslim” is linked to movement and quantity (“immigration”, “deportation”; “mass”, “high”). Emotional vocabulary is marginal, supporting the hypothesis of Breivik’s discourse being affectively flat.

Biographies:

Tereza Klemensová (Ph.D.; 1991), an assistant professor at the Department of Czech Language (Faculty of Arts, University of Ostrava), specializes in onomastics, historical grammar, language policy, and language culture. Her main focus is research of toponyms in connection with the language policy or marketing and the issue of renaming.

Michal Místecký (Ph.D.; 1990), an assistant professor at the Department of Czech Language (Faculty of Arts, University of Ostrava), specializes in quantitative linguistics, stylometry, onomastics, and corpus linguistics. His main focus is application of quantitative methods in various domains of language (education, literary scholarship, slang studies, journalism, neuroscience).

Martynenko, Irina

Title:

“Place names in the Latin American literary discourse”

Abstract:

The presentation examines the functioning of place names in fiction and their connection with real geographical objects. Based on the texts of some outstanding Latin American writers (as Jorge Luís Borges, Julio Cortázar, Gabriel García Márquez, Carlos Fuentes), the author analyzes the origin of toponyms recorded in their works, the historical context and features of their use in personal artistic discourse. Particular attention is paid to cases when writers use place names in a metaphorical meaning, as well as the role of toponyms in the narrative of national Argentine, Columbian and Mexican identity. Textual analysis has shown that most toponyms in the Latin American literary discourse have real cartographic analogues. They are active participants in intellectual and intertextually rich narratives and convey deep philosophical ideas. Real place names in the studied idiolects are always functional, but their use in fiction varies depending on the author's intention. The results of the analysis showed that geonames in fiction perform not only a nominative, locative, but also a symbolic function, enhancing the aesthetic effect of the narrative, creating allusions to real historical events, acting as key markers of national self-consciousness, a value component of national identity and simultaneously conveying philosophical ideas of being. Toponyms create a complex of historical, cultural and emotional associations in the reader's mind, forming and strengthening the idea of national identity. They become not only geographical references to the map, but a self-sufficient literary device, a means of expressing cultural codes, allowing writers to turn to collective memory and mythology.

Biography:

Irina Martynenko is a Doctor of Philology, professor from Moscow, Russia, author of more than 70 scientific papers and books. She is specialised in Hispanic place names of the world. Her research interests also include linguopragmatics, linguodidactics, semiotics of literary text, variability of Spanish and English languages and legal English.

Obasi, Sharon N.

Title:

“The Power of Naming: Identity and Immigration in Youth Literature”

Abstract:

Personal names are powerful markers of identity, carrying cultural heritage, familial lineage, and historical memory. As Dale Carnegie famously observed, “a person’s name is the sweetest sound in any language.” Across cultures, naming practices function as mechanisms of continuity, reflecting deeply held values, belief systems, and parental aspirations. For immigrants, however, names often become points of negotiation. Upon migration, individuals may encounter mispronunciation, misspelling, or pressure to adopt culturally familiar names in order to facilitate social or professional integration. For asylum seekers, inconsistencies in name transliteration or official documentation can carry serious legal consequences, complicating claims and heightening the stakes of name retention or alteration. While name modification may offer strategic advantages, it can also generate feelings of loss, marginalization, or disconnection from one’s personal and communal identity. This paper examines how children’s and young adult literature portrays the role of names in shaping immigrant identity. Through close readings of selected texts, it explores how personal names function as tools of resistance, resilience, and transformation. These narratives illuminate the emotional and ethical dimensions of naming, offering young readers a nuanced lens through which to understand identity, belonging, and the lived complexities of immigration.

Biography:

Sharon Obasi, Ph.D. is a Professor of Family Science and an interdisciplinary scholar whose work explores naming, identity, and belonging across cultural and literary contexts. Her onomastic research focuses on familial naming strategies and how names shape identity and agency for marginalized individuals navigating systems such as education and healthcare.

Walter, Mary Ann

Title:

“One name, two names, red names, blue names”

Abstract:

Recent work has highlighted the interaction of phoneme preferences in personal names with a variety of social aspects of identity and in a variety of languages. More polysyllabicity, front high vowels, and sonorants index femininity (Ackermann & Zimmer 2021, Chen & Kenstowicz 2022), which in turn is exaggerated or minimized depending on both ethnicity and performance factors (Walter 2023, 2025).

This study tests the correlation of these ‘feminine’-indexed phonemic variables with political ideology, drawing on datasets of “blue / left / liberal / Democratic” preferred personal names and “red / right / conservative / Republican” names (combined n=300; Kihm 2020, Kihm 2024, Oliver et al. 2015), and hypothesizing that differing attitudes about gender roles between these groups might result in phonemic differences in names reflecting these differences.

I find that blue male names demonstrate a statistically significant greater degree of phonemic femininity than red male names, as might be expected given existing ideological discourses of masculinity. More surprisingly, blue female names exhibit more phonemic femininity than red female names. This yields a consistent stepwise progression of increasing “femininity” from red male – blue male – red female – blue female for all three phonemic factors.

I conclude that political ideology does modulate the expression of gender roles through subconscious preferences for certain phonemes in personal name choices for one’s children in the United States.

Biography:

Mary Ann Walter is Associate Professor of English at the University of the Virgin Islands. She has also taught at the Middle East Technical University (Northern Cyprus), Cambridge, Plovdiv, and Northwestern, with degrees in linguistics from Harvard and MIT. Her interests include phonology, phonetics, and sociolinguistics of English, Balkan, and Middle Eastern languages.
