

HISTORY AND LINGUISTICS IN THE ANDES — A CROSS-DISCIPLINARY SYMPOSIUM

Institute for the Study of the Americas — Monday 15th September 2008

A CROSS-DISCIPLINARY RESEARCH CONTEXT

This symposium focuses on the intersection between the disciplines of history and linguistics in the Andes. The geographical focus will be on the **central** Andes, i.e. modern Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia, home to the two main surviving indigenous language families of the region, Quechua and Aymara, though we shall also touch upon more minor and less-documented languages such as Puquina and Uru-Chipaya. The time-span of interest is the post-Columbian period, from the colonial era through to the present; for details please see the attached symposium programme. The pre-Columbian period, including indigenous ethno-history, is the subject of a separate symposium to be held in Cambridge immediately before this one: see www.arch.cam.ac.uk/ala/.

Certainly there has been a good deal of valuable cross-disciplinary work in this area, though we also feel that both disciplines still have a great deal to gain from each other. To make the most of this potential, the intention of this symposium is specifically to promote discussion, interaction and understanding between our two disciplines. In the first instance we aim to ensure that specialists in each discipline are aware of the issues on both sides that are relevant to the interface between them, and of the basic scenarios in the linguistic history of the Andes. This process will also identify the main unresolved questions, and serve as the foundation upon which we then explore them further, to move the field forward together.

FORMAT OF SYMPOSIUM AND ORAL PRESENTATIONS

At this stage in the interdisciplinary endeavour, we feel that these goals are best served not by a series of formal conference papers, but rather by a small symposium of the round table/workshop type. Numbers are therefore limited to around twenty participants, bringing together a roll-call of established international experts in the history or linguistics of the Andes. Each participant will not be asked to present a formal paper, but instead to prepare one or more basic, **short overviews** of those issues or regions in which he or she has particular expertise. (A laptop and data projector will be available.)

Each overview should form no more than a basis on which to launch the discussion of that issue: it should last only from five to ten minutes, and be intelligible to the other discipline. The attached draft programme includes some first suggestions for which of our potential participants (shown by their initials) might prepare the overviews for which themes, though the definitive programme will of course be determined in consultation between the organisers and individual participants. For many themes, two overviews will be given on each: one by a historian, one by a linguist.

Similarly, all sessions will be chaired by a specialist in each discipline. It will be our guiding principle that discussion should at no point stray into purely 'in-house' debates, of interest and concern only to a single discipline.

SYMPOSIUM PUBLICATION AND TIMETABLE

Since the *raison d'être* of this symposium is to foster a creative synthesis between the disciplines, we do *not* request participants to prepare formal written papers or presentations in advance, which we feel would be to put the cart before the horse. On the contrary, our intention is that our publication should emerge *out of* the interactions at the symposium itself. The round-table format has been deliberately chosen to give each participant the opportunity to explore and gain feedback on his or her areas of interest for a subsequent written paper. The symposium will lead directly to an edited volume of these papers.

Participants are invited (expected) to indicate their willingness to submit a contribution to this publication when confirming their attendance. Articles must relate specifically to the theme of the symposium and be intelligible to and of direct interest to both disciplines. Within one month of the end of the symposium, participants are to submit an abstract of their proposed paper, with the full text to follow by the end of 2008. Submissions will then enter the peer review process, to which other authors may also be invited to contribute.

Articles may be written in either English or Spanish. Please note that at the symposium too, both working languages will no doubt be used, since we expect some of our international participants to prefer to speak in Spanish.

PRACTICALITIES

Participation is by invitation only, and there will be no conference fee. The symposium will be held at the *Institute for the Study of the Americas*, in central London, over one full day, Monday 15th September 2008. Sessions will run from approximately 9am to 5pm, with lunch and coffee breaks provided, and will be followed by a wine reception and dinner. Accommodation will be provided in the Institute's usual nearby hotel for its international guests on the nights of both Sunday 14th and Monday 15th.

SUGGESTED READING

For participants who would like pointers to literature in the other discipline that has a bearing on their more specific interests, the organisers will be happy to provide tailored suggestions for targeted reading. As for more general background, historians who would like to read up a little on the rather little-known linguistic history of the Andes may be interested in the following articles. As their titles suggest, they are intended particularly for archaeologists, though much of the first article in particular sets out principles that may be of interest to historians too, and together they provide an overview of the major issues in the historical linguistics of the Andes.

- Heggarty, Paul, 2007. *Linguistics for archaeologists: principles, methods, and the case of the Incas*. Cambridge Archaeological Journal, 17.3, 311-40. (pdf at: www.languagesandpeoples.com/Eng/Papers/PublicationsHeggarty.htm)
- Heggarty, Paul, 2008. *Linguistics for archaeologists: a case study in the Andes*. Cambridge Archaeological Journal, 18.1, 35-56. (pdf at: www.languagesandpeoples.com/Eng/Papers/PublicationsHeggarty.htm)