

Editors' Introduction

Malcolm Coulthard & Rui Sousa-Silva

Federal University of Santa Catarina & University of Porto

We are delighted to be launching this new international bilingual bi-annual journal – *Language and Law - Linguagem e Direito* – exactly twenty years after the launch of *Forensic Linguistics: The International Journal of Speech Language and the Law*. As is evident we have assembled a highly distinguished International Advisory Board to assist the Editorial team.

While the first few issues of *IJSSL* were set from hard-copy typed manuscripts and the journal is still circulated to most individual and library subscribers in printed form, *Language and Law - Linguagem e Direito* is completely electronic and freely available for everyone to download at <http://ler.letras.up.pt>. Because *Language and Law* has no printing costs it can be extremely flexible to individual author's requirements: not only can it publish quickly all the high quality articles it receives, but also it can cope with long appendices, reproduce in colour illustrations, photographs and tables, as well embed sound files and hyperlinks.

Although in submitting an article authors cede to the journal the right to publish and republish in the journal's two languages, we want to emphasise that copyright remains with the authors. Thus, if they wish to republish the article, they simply need to inform the editors; unlike with some journals no fee will be charged to either author or re-publisher.

We chose the title *Language and Law – Linguagem e Direito* to indicate that we welcome articles across the whole spectrum of the discipline and from both practitioners and academic researchers. Thus, for example, this first issue includes contributions from a chief of police, a public prosecutor, a professional translator, a professional interpreter and two expert witnesses, as well as from academic lawyers and linguists.

Until recently there has been comparatively little research activity on the interface between language and law in Brazil and Portugal, where we, the editors, currently work. However, recently an International Association for Language and Law for speakers of Portuguese (ALIDI) was founded to develop research in the area and all members will receive a copy of the journal.

The language policy of the journal is to publish articles in both English and Portuguese with abstracts in both languages. While most Portuguese speaking academics now prefer

to publish in English in order to access a larger audience, we will publish articles in Portuguese when appropriate, as for instance when an article is reporting on the analysis of Portuguese data. Of course, a bilingual journal is likely to be more interested in the legal problems of multilingualism, so it is no accident that the journal opens with an article by Larry Solan about multilingual law-making and interpretation and ends with an article by Jakob Marsalenko about multilingual court proceedings.

To illustrate the variety in this first issue: Maria Lúcia Gomes and Denise Carneiro write about Forensic Phonetics in Brazil, Alison Johnson and David Wright about authorship analysis and Rui Sousa-Silva about plagiarism by translation; Liz Carter writes about deceptive responses in police interviews, Marcos Ribeiro and Cristiane Fuzer about honour crimes, Edilson Vitorelli about the language rights of indigenous Brazilians and Gail Stygall about incomprehensible Jury Instructions; finally Débora Figueiredo examines representations of the crime of rape.

We hope you will want to become a regular reader of the journal – to do so simply send an email to lldjournal@gmail.com with the word 'SUBSCRIBE' in the Subject line. You will then receive automatically a link to each new issue of the journal as soon as it is published. We also hope you will want to share your own research with the academic community through the pages of our journal. To do so please read the notes on submitting an article available here: <http://www.linguisticaforense.pt/lldjournal-en.html>.

Malcolm Coulthard
Federal University of Santa Catarina
Brazil

Rui Sousa-Silva
University of Porto
Portugal