Editorial

Laura L. Paterson and Isabelle van der Bom

Welcome to the first issue of 2019. First of all, we would like to share the good news that we are currently in negotiations with Equinox about having the journal indexed. Having the journal formally indexed in research journal databases will increase the visibility of the *Journal of Language and Discrimination* and increase the potential audience for all the papers, reviews, interviews and short research notes we publish. We are also so pleased to have received some excellent proposals for future special issues, so there is certainly a lot to look forward to over the next few years. This issue in particular includes two long-form articles, as well as thorough book reviews and an interview with two UK-based academics. While not running through every component of the issue, there is a repeated focus on accent discrimination in particular, which is returned to throughout this issue.

Our first paper is by Alison Gibbons, who draws on approaches from stylistics – particularly Text World Theory – to analyse the trial and treatment of Ahmed Naji, the Egyptian author who was jailed after a complaint about the contents of his book *Istikhdam al-Hayat* [Using Life]. In her paper, Gibbons unpicks the understanding (and legal treatment) of the nuanced relationship between the author of a text and the situations they depict. Naji was tried for ‘disturbing public morals’ after a reader took offence at a particular extract from his book and his case sparked questions about censorship in Egypt in the twenty-first century. Gibbons critically analyses extracts from Egypt’s penal code and the culture and history

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which underpins it, as well as applying the same critical lens to extracts from Naji's text.

The second essay by Paul O'Neill and Gladis Massini-Cagliari reflects on the status of non-standard varieties in debates about linguistic prejudice and discrimination. Taking Brazilian Portuguese as a case study, they argue that while international laws are in place to promote the use of particular language, there has been little to no consideration of the formal endorsement of non-standard varieties of languages, despite the fact that, in their case study, the standard variety can differ substantially from some non-standard varieties. In particular, they consider the realisations of prejudice against non-standard varieties within the Brazilian education system, noting that there is some evidence that speaking stigmatised varieties of a language can decrease students' self-worth and, relatedly, that lower self-worth could lead to students dropping out of secondary education. While they are careful not to assume a one-to-one correlation between these variables, they foreground how students' and teachers' attitudes to non-standard varieties could play a role. They conclude with a list of recommendations for the role that linguists and other social scientists can play in challenging perceptions about non-standard varieties, with the wider aim of influencing language policies.

The article is followed by an interview with Erin Carrie and Rob Drummond who run the Accentism Project at Manchester Metropolitan University, UK, which is designed to raise awareness about accent discrimination (and language discrimination more broadly). The project aims to bring awareness of accentism to the forefront of public consciousness, and to challenge the assumptions people make about accents and how such assumptions might affect their subsequent behaviour. The interview includes examples of accent discrimination submitted to the project by members of the public through the accentism website (accentism.org/stories) as well as information about the different ways that people can get involved with the project.

The issue also contains three book reviews, coordinated by our new book reviews editor Stephen Pihlaja. These include Ilse Ras' review of *The Language of Hate: A Corpus Linguistic Analysis of White Supremacist Language*, and Melissa Yoong's review of *Gender, Power and Political Speech: Women and Language in the 2015 UK General Election*. Retaining the focus on accent (and indeed varietal) discrimination which occurs in several components of this issue, Anna-Christine Weirich also reviews *Je n'ai plus osé ouvrir la bouche ... Témoignages de glottophobie vécue et moyens de se défendre* [I did not dare to open my mouth any more ... Testimonies of experiences of glottophobia and means to defend oneself].

If you are interested in writing a book review for the journal, please contact Stephen in the first instance.

As conference season begins in earnest, we encourage readers to consider the *Journal of Language and Discrimination* as a home for their research. Submissions are welcome from academics (and non-academics alike) at all career stages. If you would like to discuss a potential contribution, or if you have an idea for a special issue, please contact either of the editors. Further to that, we will be attending several conferences over the summer and into the autumn, so if you would like to discuss a paper face to face, please do approach us.

For details on how to submit a manuscript, please see the journal website (<https://journals.equinoxpub.com/index.php/JLD/index>) where you can find author guidelines.

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