

## **Crossing boundaries: a Festschrift for Laura Downing**

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### **Editors' preface**

We feel both honoured and humbled to present this volume to Laura Downing on the occasion of her retirement from the University of Gothenburg in June 2021 which has appeared in two parts with issue 1 of volume 62 published in 2021 and issue 2 of volume 62 published in 2022.

The contributors and the scope of the papers reflect Laura's multiple and significant contributions to the fields of phonology, African linguistics and the phonology-syntax interface over more than three decades, and her direct impact on the careers and lives of many linguists based in Africa, Europe, and North America especially, including the three editors of this special volume. Laura obtained her PhD from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1990 and then worked at several leading research universities in Canada and the USA before joining the Zentrum für Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft (Centre for General Linguistics) in Berlin, Germany in 2001 and finally the University of Gothenburg, in Sweden in 2012 as Professor of African Languages where she worked until her retirement. Throughout her career Laura has held prestigious visiting positions such as at the Netherlands Institute for Advanced Study in the Humanities and Social Sciences and the Arctic University of Norway where again she touched on the lives and careers of many linguists.

Laura has worked on many different African languages, first and foremost those of East and Southern Africa, with major contributions to the studies of the Bantu languages Tumbuka and Chichewa (both spoken in Malawi), Zulu (South Africa) and Jita (Tanzania) and Somali (a Cushitic language of Somalia and neighbouring countries) but also Bantu languages from other parts of Africa. Laura has carried out extensive fieldwork, especially in Malawi.

It was very difficult to select authors to invite for this volume from the large number of possible linguists and we extend our apologies to anyone who feels left out. We are grateful to the many reviewers, contributors, and Kate Huddleston and her editorial team for putting together this final product.

Guest editors,  
Seunghun J. Lee  
Cédric Patin  
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