

American Name Society

Annual Meeting



Hilton Portland & Executive Tower
Portland, Oregon
January 5-8, 2012

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.wtsn.binghamton.edu/ANS>

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Ernest L. Abel, Wayne State University, 2010-2012
Carol Lombard, University of the Free State, 2011-2013

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Dwan Lee Shipley, Western Washington University
Christine De Vinne, Notre Dame of Maryland University

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2012 Program Committee

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Photo depicts the Pioneer Courthouse, 555 S.W. Yawmill St., Portland

NAMES: A Journal of Onomastics

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NAMES, A Journal of Onomastics, publishes articles of general, theoretical, and topical interest, reviews of recent books and other significant resources, queries, notes, and comments of concern to onomastics. Reports of original research in onomastics as well as redactions and summaries of existing research are welcome. *NAMES* is a fully-refereed journal; manuscripts of articles are read and evaluated anonymously by at least two qualified scholars. Membership in the American Name Society is not required for initial publication in *NAMES*; manuscripts from non-members and from scholars in related disciplines are encouraged.

Manuscripts should be sent to:

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American Name Society

2012 Annual Meeting

Hilton Portland & Executive Tower, Portland, Oregon

*Unless otherwise noted, all events take place in **Salon III** of the Executive Tower*

Thursday, 5 January - Afternoon

Executive Committee Meeting

Time: 12:00 – 3:30 PM

Opening Remarks & Welcome

4:00 – 4:15

*Kemp Williams (IBM Global Name Recognition)
President, American Name Society*

Toponyms

68

Chair: Dwan Lee Shipley (Western Washington University)

4:15 *Samira Hassa (Manhattan College):* Decrypting the French colonial association doctrine through street names in Casablanca, Fes, and Rabat, Morocco

~~4:45 *Yaw Sekyi-Baidoo (The University of Education, Winneba):* Foreign language influence and allonymy: A case of some toponyms of Southern Ghana
WITHDRAWN~~

5:15 *Dwan Lee Shipley (Western Washington University):* A comparative toponymic analysis of selected mountains in The Alps, Appalachians, Black Hills, Colorado Rockies, and The Himalayas

~~5:45 *Charles Pfukwa (Midlands State University)* WITHDRAWN~~

Sister Societies Meet and Greet

8:30 – 10:00 - **Porto Terra Lounge**, Executive Tower of the conference hotel. Cash bar.

Please join us for a social hour with members of the American Name Society, the American Dialect Society, the North American Association for the History of the Language Sciences, the Society for Pidgin and Creole Languages, and the Society for the Study of the Indigenous Languages of the Americas.

Friday 6 January - Morning

Multicultural Personal Names

70

- Chair: Saundra K. Wright (California State University, Chico)
- 8:00 *Rebecca Starr (Stanford University)*: Disambiguating romanized Chinese personal names: A corpus-based approach to back-transliteration and gender identification
- 8:30 *Giancarla Unser-Schutz (Hitotsubashi University)*: Assessing the difficulty of reading recent Japanese names
- 9:00 *Yi-An Jason Chen (San Jose State University)*: Taiwanese English majors' choices and changes of English names
- 9:30 *Saundra K. Wright (California State University, Chico)*: Naming decisions made by international students studying in the U.S.

Naming Potpourri I

71

- Chair: Ernest Lawrence Abel (Wayne State University)
- 10:15 *Christine De Vinne (Notre Dame of Maryland University)*: Tune That Name: How a "college" became a "university"
- 10:45 *Don L. F. Nilsen (Arizona State University)*, *Alleen Pace Nilsen (Arizona State University)*: Pronouns, nouns, and names as unique identifiers
- 11:15 *André Lapierre (University of Ottawa)*: The Barcelona papers: A compass of onomastics in the world today
- 11:45 *Ernest Lawrence Abel (Wayne State University)*: Eponymous sex

Interest Group Lunches

Time: 12:15-1:45 (Locations TBA)

Literary Names – Convener: Priscilla A. Ord; Trade Names – Convener: Ernest L. Abel

Friday 6 January - Afternoon

Keynote Address

Time: 2:00 – 3:00 PM

Chair: Kemp Williams (IBM Global Name Recognition)

***Sheila M. Embleton (York University)*: Names in India**

Name of the Year Discussion and Balloting

Time: 3:15 – 3:45 PM

Moderator: Cleveland Kent Evans (Bellevue University)

Friday 6 January – Afternoon (Cont'd)

Literary Onomastics I

72

- Chair: Susan J. Behrens (Marymount Manhattan College)
- 3:45 *Dorothy Dodge Robbins (Louisiana Tech University)*: The good, the sound, and the bad: T. S. Eliot's advice on naming daughters
- 4:15 *Susan J. Behrens (Marymount Manhattan College)* Onomastics and contemporary fiction: A new approach for the college English classroom
- 4:45 ~~*Adedoyin Eniola Olamide (Redeemers University, Nigeria)*: WITHDRAWN~~

Words of the Year Vote, with American Dialect Society

5:30 – 6:30; Salon I, II, III

7:00 – ANS Banquet – Mother's Bistro & Bar

Saturday, January 7 - Morning

Literary Onomastics II

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- Chair: Brad Wilcox (Brigham Young University)
- 8:00 *Herbert Barry III (University of Pittsburgh)*: More Males than Females Created by Six Famous Novelists
- 8:30 *Tom Henthorne (Pace University)*, *Jonathan Silverman (University of Massachusetts Lowell)*: Overnaming and the crisis of representation from Thomas Pynchon to Lady Gaga
- 9:00 *Dennis Noson (BRC Acoustics, Seattle)*: On Thoreau's mnemonic use of place names
- 9:30 *Brad Wilcox (Brigham Young University)*, *Bruce L. Brown (Brigham Young University)*: Identifying authors by the phonoprints in their invented names: An exploratory study

Personal Names

74

- Chair: Carol Lombard (University of the Free State)
- 10:15 *MaryAnn Parada (University of Illinois at Chicago)*: Femininity perceptions of (non)-ethnic given names: Points of convergence and divergence between Hispanic- and European-American adult females
- 10:45 ~~*Myleah Y. Kerns (East Carolina University)*: WITHDRAWN~~
- 11:15 *Carol Lombard (University of the Free State)*: Identity lost and found: the intermixing of western and traditional Niitsitapi personal names and naming practices

Annual Business Meeting and Presentation of Awards

11:45 AM – 12:30 PM

Saturday 7 January - Afternoon

Interest Group Lunches

12:30 - 1:45 (Locations TBA)

Personal Names – Convener: Sandra K. Wright

Geographical Names – Convener: Dwan L. Shipley

Naming Potpourri II

75

Chair: Alison Burns (University of Glasgow)

2:00 *Alison Burns (University of Glasgow)*: A socio-onomastic study of field-names in Aberdeenshire, Scotland; **Recipient of 2012 ANS Emerging Scholar Award**

2:30 *Karen A. Duchaj (Northeastern Illinois University), Jeanine Ntithirageza (Northeastern Illinois University)*: Name position in interview greetings: The case of news/political commentary programs

3:00 *Cleveland Kent Evans (Bellevue University)*: Giving onomastics away: What I've learned writing a newspaper column on names

Executive Committee Wrap-up Meeting

4:00 – 5:00 PM

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Abstract & Bibliography of the Invited Speaker

Names in India

Sheila M. Embleton, York University

Abstract: With a population of over 1.2 billion, India is currently the second most populous country in the world, and has enjoyed a recent and rapid rise to prominence in the world's economy. Very little is known among "Western" scholars about naming in India, and this paper attempts to partially remedy that with a brief overview of selected topics. These will include renaming or respelling of city names (e.g. Bombay / Mumbai); colonial names; correlations between caste, religion, and names; and recent attempts to address societal issues such as gender discrimination through renaming.

Biography: Dr. Sheila Embleton, FRSC, is Distinguished Research Professor of Linguistics, York University, Toronto, and Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. She served as Vice-President Academic & Provost at York 2000 - 2009, and Associate Dean, Faculty of Arts, 1994 - 2000. She was Chair of the Ontario Council of Academic Vice-Presidents 2004-2008 and the National Vice-Presidents Academic Council 2006-2007. Her academic background is in both mathematics and linguistics (BSc 1975, MSc 1976, PhD 1981, U of Toronto), and her areas of scholarly interest are historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, dialectology, mathematical/statistical methods in linguistics, onomastics, and women and language; she has published extensively in all of these areas. Her areas of language specialization include English, German, Germanic, French, Romance, Russian, Slavic, Finnish and Finno-Ugric. She is best known for applications of mathematical/statistical methods to linguistic problems, with her early work mostly in methods of tree reconstruction for families of related languages. Her current research is mostly on dialectometry (statistical methods applied to dialect study), with application to English, Finnish and Romanian. She is interested in policy and practical issues in contemporary post-secondary education, both in Canada and internationally (especially EU and India), as well as advocating for the internationalization of education and access to higher education, based on merit rather than social, financial, or geographical factors. She is Past-President of the Canadian Society for the Study of Names, the American Name Society, the International Council of Onomastic Sciences, the Linguistic Association of Canada and the US (LACUS), the International Quantitative Linguistics Association, and the Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, and current President of the Canadian Friends of Finland Education Foundation, as well as Executive Director of LACUS. She is a Board member of the Canadian Bureau for International Education and Mprime Networks, and formerly of MITACS (Mathematics of Information Technology and Complex Systems). She is associate editor, review editor, or member of the editorial board of numerous journals and book series, including many of the foremost in her fields. She has won awards for her academic contributions, is a Knight First Class of the Order of the White Rose of Finland (for promoting academic and cultural ties between Canada and Finland), a Fellow of the Royal Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures and Commerce (RSA), London, a Senior Fellow of Massey College in the University of Toronto, and an Invited Member of Suomalaisen kirjallisuuden seura (Finnish Literature Society, Helsinki). She is academic advisor to Stoakley Dudley Ltd. (search firm), Special Advisor to the President and CEO of Mitacs Inc., and consults on various academic topics, especially internationalization. She has been an on-site assessor at several universities in Canada, for the Romanian Research Assessment Exercise, and for the German Excellence Initiative.

Dr. Embleton is involved in many aspects of academic relations between Canada and India, and frequently lectures, writes for the media, and leads panels on the rapidly evolving higher education scene in India. She has represented York at the Shastri Institute since 2001, and was Vice-President and then President 2008-2010, during which time she led a strategic planning process. She led York's India Strategy 2005-2009, and was involved in the preparation, negotiation, and approvals for York's Schulich School of Business MBA program in India. As Chair of OCAV, she conceived and established the Ontario-Maharashtra-Goa exchange program (and obtained government funding for it). She has travelled and lectured widely in India, visiting dozens of universities, institutes, and government ministries, and was involved in advising and planning for the academic portions of the visits by Ontario Premier Dalton McGuinty (Jan. 2007, Dec. 2009), Québec Premier Jean Charest (Feb. 2010), British Columbia Premier Christy Clark (Nov. 2011) and Prime Minister Stephen Harper (Nov. 2009). She is a member of the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade's Focus India Group, and was a member of the Canada-India Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement Joint Study Group Advisory Committee. She is currently President of the Canada India Education Council.

Abstract & Bibliographies of Regular Papers

Ernest Lawrence Abel (Wayne State University)

Eponymous sex

Eponyms are the names of people, or places, real or fictitious, after which an item, discovery, place, time, etc. are named or believed to be named. This presentation begins with a typology of eponyms involving some aspect of sexual anatomy, behavior, or sexually related diseases, and gives examples and vignettes related to these eponymously derived terms.

Biography: Ernest Lawrence Abel (Wayne State University) is a professor in the Departments of Obstetrics and Gynecology and Psychology. He is a past president of two international societies—The Behavioral Teratology Society and the Fetal Alcohol Study Group and, in a previous incarnation, was the scientific director of the National Institute on Alcoholism’s “Fetal Alcohol Research Center.” In recent years Abel’s interests have shifted towards onomastics and especially the influence of names on careers and longevity. Abel also has an interest in cemeteries as a database and recently published an article on changes in gender discrimination after death, which traced trends of including maiden names on grave markers.

Herbert Barry III (University of Pittsburgh)

More Males than Females Created by Six Famous Novelists

Five male novelists and one female novelist, George Eliot (pen name of Marian Evans) created more male than female fictional characters. The percentage of males was 81% by Ernest Hemingway, 76% by William Makepeace Thackeray, 66% by George Eliot, Sinclair Lewis, and Charles Dickens, 55% by John Updike. The similar number of males and females in the population was reproduced by four female authors. The percentages of male fictional characters was 51% by Anna Quindlen, 47% by Edith Wharton and Jane Austen, 45% by Charlotte Bronte.

Biography: Herbert Barry III (University of Pittsburgh) is a psychologist who has published research reports on personal names beginning in 1979. His publications on unisex names and on popular personal names given to boys and girls have been with coauthor Aylene S. Harper. The current research by Barry includes names chosen by novelists for their fictional characters. Articles in “Psychological Reports,” 2001 and 2006, are on two fictional characters named Jane in the six novels by Jane Austen and on 12 fictional characters named Charles or Charley in the 14 completed novels by Charles Dickens. Barry has contributed to the two most recent ICOS meetings, on fictional characters created by Charlotte Bronte in Toronto in 2008 and on fictional namesakes of nine novelists in Barcelona in 2011.

Susan J. Behrens (Marymount Manhattan College)

Onomastics and Contemporary Fiction: A new approach for the college English classroom

The principles of onomastics can be applied to the English classroom to facilitate students’ exploration of contemporary fiction. This talk is aimed at college English teachers and demonstrates an onomastic approach to teaching novels of the late 20th - early 21st century. Students uncover language choices that contribute to character identity and evolution, as well as the development of plot and themes. Naming is uncovered as an integral component of the contemporary novel. Participants encounter analyses of four works of contemporary fiction through the lens of naming practices and work to develop classroom lessons.

Biography: Susan Behrens holds a Ph.D. in linguistics from Brown University. She is Professor of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Marymount Manhattan College, New York City, where she teaches linguistics in a speech pathology program. She is also a member of Bard College’s Institute for Writing and Thinking, where she works with both undergraduates and secondary school teachers in writing-to-learn workshops. Her research involves accent and dialect bias, forms of address, conversational patterns between students and teachers, and pedagogical applications of linguistics. She is a free-lance contributor to The Learning Network, a blog for teachers on *The New York Times* webpage. At Marymount, she is co-director of the Center for Teaching Innovation and Excellence. Her two recent books are *Language in the Real World: An Introduction to Linguistics* (edited with Judith Parker) and *Grammar: A Pocket Guide*.

Alison Burns (University of Glasgow)

A socio-onomastic study of field-names in Aberdeenshire, Scotland

Field-names in Scotland are part of the oral tradition. The introduction of a new numbering system for tax purposes has resulted in a marked decline in their usage, with only older members of the community recalling the names. There are few written records that preserve early forms, and little systematic study of the topic. Therefore time is running out to collect the names of Scottish fields. Work in England has demonstrated the valuable contribution field-names make to onomastic research. This paper presents the findings of a study of field-names of Aberdeenshire, Scotland and discusses issues relating to data collection.

Biography: Alison Burns is a 2nd year PhD student at the University of Glasgow, Scotland. She is a member of the Scottish Place-name Society, the Society for Name Studies in Britain and Ireland, ICOS and the American Name Society. Her research is a socio-onomastic study of the field-names of Aberdeenshire.

Yi-An Jason Chen (San José State University)

Taiwanese English Majors' Choices and Changes of English Names

Recent studies have shown that Asian students' adopted English names and their identities are closely intertwined. The goal of this scholarly research is to discover the motivation for English majors in Taiwan to adopt English names and to explore the extent, if any, to which the English names affect students' cultural identities. The study's results – based on qualitative analyses of interviews and questionnaires – suggest that the English names of Taiwanese English majors help construct identities among peers and in EFL classroom settings; however, their use of English names breaks solidarity with addressees outside EFL classrooms.

Biography: Yi-An Jason Chen is a graduate student in Linguistics at San José State University, CA, USA, where he is conducting thesis on English names of Taiwanese international students and Taiwanese American students. His interests include sociolinguistics, East Asian languages and cultures, and English personal names.

Christine De Vinne (College of Notre Dame of Maryland)

Tune that Name: How a "college" became a "university"

The growth of many U.S. institutions of higher education has been marked by their transformation from "college" to "university." In the transition, some change the specific (e.g., Beaver College becomes Arcadia University, 2001), while many change only the generic (e.g., Rutgers College becomes Rutgers University, 1924). The apparent simplicity of the latter practice masks an array of decisions, strategies, and expenses that the conversion requires. Using as case study the 2011 transformation of College of Notre Dame of Maryland into Notre Dame of Maryland University, this paper analyzes the processes of internal and external identity-formation associated with institutional name change.

Biography: Christine De Vinne is an administrator and professor of English at Notre Dame of Maryland University. Her research and publications focus on literary, corporate, and institutional names, rhetorical theory, and autobiography, particularly confessions. Her current work involves a study of confessional narrative in American literature. She serves as book review editor of *Names* and invites authors, reviewers, and publishers to contact her about material.

Karen A. Duchaj (Northeastern Illinois University)

Jeanine Ntahirageza (Northeastern Illinois University)

Name Position in Interview Greetings: The Case of News/Political Commentary Programs

In this study, we examine the use of names in interview greetings on MSNBC programs. A common pattern emerges which "book-ends" the greeting sequence with the two speakers' names, as in the following example: *KO: Ryan, good evening. / RG: Good evening, Keith.* The interviewer, who speaks first, begins his/her greeting with the interlocutor's name, while the interviewee ends with it.

The interviewer's name-initial greeting cues the interviewee that he/she, not the viewing audience, is being addressed. Furthermore, unlike standard news broadcasts, in the longer news/political commentary programs, there is time for a full, two-way greeting.

Biography: Jeanine Ntuhirageza (Northeastern Illinois University, Chicago, IL) holds a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Chicago, with a specialization in Bantu languages. The title of her dissertation is *A Morphophonological Analysis of Quantity Sensitivity in Bantu Language*. She has an MA in Applied Linguistics from Southern Illinois University, Carbondale. Her research interests include phonology and morphology, contact linguistics and Ethnopragnmatics. She is Assistant Professor at Northeastern Illinois University, holds a joint appointment in the TESL/TEFL Program and the English Language Program, which she coordinates. She has taught Theoretical and Applied Linguistics courses for the last ten years.

Cleveland Kent Evans (Bellevue University)

Giving onomastics away: What I've learned writing a newspaper column on names

This paper will discuss what writing a newspaper column on names for the last four years has taught the author about presenting onomastic information to the general public, the use of names across time, and how certain names came to be used in the English speaking world. The surprising absence of Aidan as a given name in the 19th century, the promotion of names like Melissa and Merle by specific literary works, and the impact of the column on cross-cultural understanding through discussion of names like Cuauhtemoc and Tybel will be among the examples used.

Biography: Cleveland Kent Evans, Professor of Psychology at Bellevue University in Bellevue, Nebraska, has been fascinated by names, especially given names and their use, since childhood. His first research paper, based on popularity counts of the names of fellow students was published in his junior high school newspaper in North Tonawanda, New York. He received a B.A. from Duke University in 1973 and a Ph.D. in Personality Psychology from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 1985. He is a former president of A.N.S. and presently leads the annual vote for Name of the Year. He has given many presentations at A.N.S. meetings and is frequently quoted in the media on the subject of given names. He is the author of *The Great Big Book of Baby Names*, and since January 2008 has written a column on names for the *Omaha World-Herald*.

Samira Hassa (Manhattan College)

Decrypting the French colonial association doctrine through street names in Casablanca, Fes, and Rabat, Morocco

This study juxtaposes the naming of streets with the colonial association doctrine in three Moroccan cities—Casablanca, Fes, and Rabat—during the Protectorate era (1912–1956). It argues that this juxtaposition is valid, as toponymia constitutes “material witnesses” of the association policy, which was based on positive interactions and collaboration with the natives. The results show that streets names—for instance *Rue Galieni*, commemorating a French military commander, or *Rue Mohamed V*, honoring the king of Morocco—reflect a political stratagem whose main goal was to strengthen French domination while projecting a peaceful and collaborative image of the colonizer.

Biography: Samira Hassa is assistant professor of Modern Languages. She is a native of Fes, Morocco. Her research interests include sociolinguistics, onomastics and identity and language change.

Tom Henthorne (Pace University)

Jonathan Silverman (University of Massachusetts Lowell)

Overnaming and the Crisis of Representation from Thomas Pynchon to Lady Gaga

This paper examines overnaming as a postmodern reaction to traditional naming processes that are based on metaphor, metonymy and synecdoche. By providing his characters with names like Oedipa Maas and Dr. Hilarius, Thomas Pynchon, for example, draws attention to naming itself as an epistemological process. As the work of Jaroslav Kusnir, Linda Hutcheon, and others suggests, overnaming, whether it occurs in literary texts such as *The Crying of Lot 49* or in military operations such as Operation Desert Storm, reflects both a nostalgia for fixed meanings and a skepticism of them.

Biography: Jonathan Silverman is an assistant professor of English at UMass Lowell. He is the author of *Nine Choices: Johnny Cash and American Culture* (UMass Press, 2010), a recent Fulbright Roving Scholar in American Studies in Norway, and a former journalist. He received his Ph.D. in American Studies at the University of Texas at Austin.

André Lapierre (University of Ottawa)

The Barcelona Papers: A Compass of Onomastics in the World Today

The recent XXIVth International Congress of Onomastic Sciences (Barcelona) brought together more than 500 specialists in names studies from 55 countries around the world, with some 450 presentations given in English, French, German as well as in Catalan, Occitan and Spanish. This paper presents a statistical analysis of the various themes and topics treated at Congress. Using the null hypothesis of random distribution, the analysis will identify those areas of name studies that are statistically more significant, thus identifying current trends and the general direction of onomastics in the world at the present time.

Biography: André Lapierre is Emeritus Professor of Linguistics and Canadian Studies at the University of Ottawa. He is a former President of the American Name Society and of the Canadian Society for the Study of Names as well as a charter member of the International Council of Onomastic Sciences. His area of expertise is place names and language contact, in particular French place names in North America and has published considerably in those areas. He is the current Chair of the Ontario Geographic Names Board and represents the French-speaking Academic Community on the Geographical Names Board of Canada. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Canada in 2008 and of the Royal Canadian Geographic Society in 2011.

Carol Lombard (University of the Free State)

Identity lost and found: the intermixing of western and traditional Niitsitapi personal names and naming practices.

Prior to European contact, the Niitsitapi (Blackfoot) people carried only their traditional personal names and had no concept of western first names or surnames. However, western names were taken on by the Niitsitapi during the colonization era when the Canadian government attempted to assimilate the Niitsitapi into European society and cultural ways. Western personal names and naming systems have been retained, and today many Niitsitapi people carry their traditional names alongside western first and last names. This phenomenon demonstrates a flexibility and adaptability within Niitsitapi culture which has facilitated the negotiation and maintenance of multicultural identity in post-modern Canadian society.

Biography: Carol Lombard is a PhD student at the University of the Free State (Bloemfontein). She holds a BA Degree in English and Linguistics, an Honors BA Degree in General Linguistics, and an MA Degree in Sociolinguistics. In addition to her present involvement in onomastics, Carol maintains an interest in sociolinguistics, cognitive linguistics, linguistic typology, as well as language and cultural preservation issues. Carol currently resides in Lewistown, Montana.

Don L.F. Nilsen (Arizona State University)

Alleen Pace Nilsen (Arizona State University)

Pronouns, Nouns, and Names as Unique Identifiers

Many onomastic scholars feel that the thing that most differentiates names from other words in the language is that names are unique identifiers, and other words in the language are not unique identifiers. This paper will demonstrate that like names, nouns and pronouns can also be unique identifiers. It will also demonstrate that names often need syntax to uniquely identify. And it will demonstrate that names are often not unique identifiers.

Biography: Don and Alleen Nilsen are the co-authors of *Names and Naming in Young Adult Literature* (Scarecrow, 2007), *Pronunciation Contrasts in English* (Waveland, 2010), *Vocabulary Plus High School and Up: A Source Based Approach* (Allyn & Bacon, 2004), and *Encyclopedia of 20th-Century American Humor* (Greenwood, 2000). Their *Encyclopedia* was a Choice Outstanding Academic Book in 2000, and an American Library Association Outstanding Reference Source in 2001. The Nilsens have just finished their revisions for *Literature for Today's Young Adults* which will appear in 2012.

Dennis Noson (BRC Acoustics, Seattle)

On Thoreau's mnemonic use of place names

Henry David Thoreau characteristically headed most journal entries with a place name for each description of his daily walks. Thoreau used a mix of customary names and coined names, reflecting botanic and landscape features of Concord. A close reading and analysis of over 500 walks within an 11-year span reveals a mnemonic construction, created as an aided in recalling local and seasonal events in the natural landscape. Extracted listings of place names illustrate toponymic features that include multiple names for one locale, increasing specificity over time, higher rates of named places in later entries, and changing rates of coinages.

Biography: Dennis Noson is an environmental consultant with 35 year's experience in analyzing the acoustical behavior of noise, voice, and music in the natural and architectural environment. Dr. Noson's research work has dealt with cross-modal experience— interactions of visual and auditory environment--and, verbal/mental responses, applying sensory scaling techniques. A recent study has shown that feedback to performing singers (visual, acoustical, and space-perception cues) influence how a singer's own voice is heard, which affects a singer's verbal evaluation of the environment as supportive (or not). Dr. Noson has lately begun a program of broader inquiry into how repeated (daily) excursions into acoustical and visual "sensory-scapes" in rural or urban settings are transcribed into narrative with shared patterns of labeling and naming. As a case study, Thoreau's frequently noted, poetic attention to sounds in the outdoor environment has led to a hypothesis that a mnemonic value in reconstructing the imagined landscape motivated Thoreau's naming of more localized places.

MaryAnn Parada (University of Illinois at Chicago)

Variability in perceptions of femininity of ethnic and non-ethnic given names: Points of convergence and divergence between Hispanic- and European-American adult females

This study examines the degree of femininity perceived for 123 first names categorized as either Anglo, Hispanic or ethnically neutral. These names, further grouped into subcategories according to letter ending, gender specificity, translatability, and semantic theme, were presented to groups of bilingual second-generation Hispanic-American and monolingual European-American adult females for ratings. Results show that evaluations of femininity differed significantly according to rater ethnicity and across name (sub)categories. Onomastics is presented as a valuable tool for assessing inter-ethnic language attitudes and ideologies, as well as for examining how different ethnolinguistic histories contribute to shaping conceptualizations of femininity.

Biography: MaryAnn Parada is a doctoral student in Hispanic Linguistics at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her research interests include the sociolinguistics of Spanish in Sweden and in the U.S., Spanish as a heritage language, the intersections of bilingualism, identity and language ideology, and anthroponomastic aspects of Spanish-speaking diasporas.

Dorothy Dodge Robbins (Louisiana Tech University)

The Good, the Sound, and the Bad: T. S. Eliot's Advice on Naming Daughters

Among Eliot's unpublished correspondence are lists of "good," "sound," and "bad" girl names from an undated document. While Eliot establishes criteria for naming cats in *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* (1939), he offers no such guidelines for naming daughters. Still much can be inferred from the lists themselves. Martyred saint names dominate the "good" list, while the "bad" list reveals Eliot's dislike for names derived from celebrity, ethnicity, abstraction, or nature. Though Eliot's criteria for the inclusion of names in each of his categories remain unstipulated, theological, biographical, and linguistic inquiry help explain the poet's advice on naming daughters.

Biography: Dorothy Dodge Robbins is the Charlotte Lewis Endowed Professor of English at Louisiana Tech University, where she teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in Technical Writing and 20th Century British Literature. Research interests include modernism, regional literatures, gender studies, and onomastics. Her essays and reviews have appeared in *The Centennial Review*, *Critique*, *The Midwest Quarterly*, *Names*, and *The Southern Quarterly*, among others. She is co-editor of four anthologies, including *Christmas Stories from Ohio*, the 2010 USA Book News Best Book Award 2010 for Literary Anthology. She is editor of *Mrs. Dalloway* in the Critical Insights Series (2012).

Yaw Sekyi-Baidoo (The University of Education, Winneba)

Foreign language influence and allonymy: A case of some toponyms of Southern Ghana

The paper discusses the colonialist influence on toponyms in the southern part of Ghana through the European traders and colonialists between the 15th and 19th centuries with a post colonialist perspective. It examines various forms of foreign language influence including corrupted variants, creation of new toponyms usually by foreigners with topographic and mercantile considerations, addition of topographic descriptions to existing names, co-existence of earlier and latter renditions of names, and the structural processes involved in the creation of the names. Finally, it discusses the situation of allonymy created and the place of this in postcolonial thought.

Biography: Yaw Sekyi-Baidoo took graduate degrees in both Language and Literature in universities in Ghana. He has since 1996 been teaching at the Department of English Education, University of Education, Winneba where he has served as Head of Ghanaian Languages and English Education departments, Dean of the faculty of Languages, and Member of the Governing Council. He has been Associate Professor of English. He has recently completed a two-year visiting professorship at the University of Cape Coast, his alma mater. Yaw has been working in Onomastics, and a book Akan Onomastics is already in press. Though a scholar of English, he has held a keen interest in sociolinguistic and pragmatic considerations that relate to his first language, Akan, and has several papers in these areas. He also has a keen interest in Grammar and Meaning, and especially their interface, as well as in Literary Theory, Writing and Oral Literature.

Dwan Lee Shipley (Western Washington University)

A Comparative Toponymic Analysis of Selected Mountains in The Alps, Appalachians, Black Hills, Colorado Rockies, and The Himalayas

This paper will analyze the names of individual mountains of five geographically distinct ranges of the world: the Alps, Appalachians, Black Hills, Himalayas, and Rocky Mountains. These five areas were selected because of their diverseness culturally and linguistically. Names will be compared toponymically for their similarities and contrasts.

Biography: Dwan Lee Shipley (Western Washington University) is a Senior Instructor in Linguistics and French with the Modern Classical Languages Department at Western Washington University, Bellingham, Washington. He has an MA in Linguistics from the University of Colorado, an MAT in French from the University of South Carolina, and is currently ABD at Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada. His research and teaching interests include comparative toponomastics, sociolinguistics, dialectology, and anthropological linguistics.

Rebecca Starr (Stanford University)

Disambiguating Romanized Chinese personal names: A corpus-based approach to back-transliteration and gender identification

Romanized Chinese personal names pose difficulties for both Chinese- and non-Chinese-speaking readers. The MingZi tool is a new online resource that generates Chinese character, gender, region, and pronunciation information for Romanized personal names. Personal names were collected from databases across multiple regions and analyzed. Reduplication, two-character given names, and front vowels were significantly more frequent in female names. In a test evaluation, the MingZi tool identified 93% of surnames and 71% of given names within three suggestions, and identified gender comparably to native speakers. The results illustrate that, while name disambiguation in Chinese presents challenges, corpus-based models can be effectively implemented.

Biography: Rebecca Lurie Starr is a graduate student in Linguistics at Stanford University. Her research focuses on sociolinguistic variation in Mandarin, Cantonese, English, and Japanese, and on Chinese pedagogy.

Giancarla Unser-Schutz (Hitotsubashi University)

Assessing the difficulty of reading recent Japanese names

This paper reports on a survey of 'difficult' Japanese baby names. Recently new Japanese names have been said to be 'more difficult' than previously, but how much so remained untested. The author designed a survey of 32 names using data from 2011, with 12 parents' names as a control. Results showed children's names were clearly more difficult. Most children's names were unfamiliar (81.51%), and only 28.67% of answers were correct. Readings

were also inconsistent between individuals. While further analysis is required, the data demonstrate that the ‘new’ names do differ from those previous and that they are ‘difficult’.

Biography: Giancarla Unser-Schutz is a doctoral student in the Graduate School of Social Sciences in Hitotsubashi University in Tokyo, Japan. The paper presented here is part of an analysis of new structural trends in Japanese baby names, looking particularly at how they manipulate Japanese *kanji* (Chinese characters) and their readings. She also is working on a sociolinguistic analysis of a digital corpus of *manga*, or Japanese comics, with a particular interest in the use of gendered speech therein. She has presented papers at the American Association for Corpus Linguistics, the Linguistics Society of America, the Popular Culture Association and the International Gender and Language Association conference amongst others.

Brad Wilcox (Brigham Young University)

Bruce L. Brown (Brigham Young University)

Identifying Authors by the Phonoprints in Their Invented Names: An Exploratory Study

If authors put words together in ways that can be recognized as wordprints, do they put sounds together in their own unique manner when they invent names? Could they have unique sound prints or phonoprints as well? This exploratory study compared phonemic patterns of unique fictional names in Spalding’s *Manuscript Story* and Tolkien’s *Lord of the Rings* with names from a nonfiction source: the nineteenth century U. S. Census. Phonotactic probabilities were determined a calculator (Vitevitch & Luce) available on the Internet. When name length was examined by ordinal phoneme position, a phonoprint of sorts emerged that merits further examination.

Biographies: Brad Wilcox is an associate professor in the Department of Teacher Education at Brigham Young University where he teaches classes in literacy and children’s literature. His research interests include literacy, education in international settings, and the study of names.

Bruce L. Brown is a professor in the Department of Psychology at Brigham Young University where he teaches graduate and undergraduate courses. His research interests include psychology, statistics, and the study of names.

Saundra K. Wright (California State University, Chico)

Naming Decisions Made by International Students Studying in the U.S.

This paper investigates the onomastic choices made by international college students studying in the U.S., focusing on students from China, Japan, and Saudi Arabia. A survey was administered to 80 exchange students, and results revealed that 49% of the participants did change or alter their given names. However, unlike new immigrants who often change their given names in order to better assimilate to the new country, this study revealed that international students’ main motivation for changing their names was to establish a positive social climate by using pragmatic face-saving strategies that would help prevent potential embarrassment in conversations.

Biography: Saundra K. Wright (California State University, Chico) has a doctorate in linguistics from Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, and is an Associate Professor of Linguistics and the Assistant Chair of English at California State University, Chico. Her work focuses on the organization of the mental lexicon and the relationship between semantic meaning and syntactic behavior. She has also analyzed preferences in the ordering of binomial name pairs, looking at the differences in the phonology of male and female names and how phonological cues can be used to make predictions about the gender of novel names. Her most recent research focuses on titles of address and the biases associated with different address forms in English.



American Name Society - January 6, 2012

Hors d'Oeuvre

Fried Ravioli

Grilled Portabella Mushroom

\$15,000 Dungeness Crab Cake

Starter

Traditional Caesar Salad

or

House Salad

or

Soup of the Day

Entree**

"Cascade Natural" Beef Pot Roast

or

Roasted Free-Range Chicken

or

Carlton Farms Pork Loin Medallions

or

Fish of the Day

or

"Macaroni & Cheese"

(always vegetarian / rice pasta available upon request)

****Vegan options available upon request**

Dessert

Seasonal Crisp or Cobbler

or

Devil's Food Cake

or

House-made Sorbets

Tea, Coffee, Soft Drinks

Mother's Bistro & Bar
212 SW Stark St. Portland, OR, 97204
(503) 464-1122

About the Cover Photo

The Pioneer Courthouse, located at 555 S.W. Yamill Street, Portland, is on the National Historic Landmarks registry. It is the oldest federal building in the Pacific Northwest and the second oldest west of the Mississippi.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pioneer_Courthouse)

Completed in 1875, this was one of the first monumental buildings to be constructed in the Pacific Northwest. Restored in the 1970s, the building was formerly the U. S. Courthouse, Customhouse, and Post Office.

(<http://tps.cr.nps.gov/nhl/detail.cfm?ResourceId=1365&ResourceType=Building>)