

Editorial

"Constructions": Entering a new era

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The realization that traditional publishing models are ineffective, unsustainable, and potentially unethical has led to a gradual but steady shift in the linguistic publication landscape. We have entered an era of open-access publishing: For instance, *Language Science Press* has established itself as a prolific publisher of open-access books, and the resignation of the entire editorial board of *Lingua*, leading to the foundation of its open-access successor-in-spirit *Glossa*, has had repercussions well beyond our discipline (Fecher & Wagner, 2015). More and more well-established linguistics journals are transitioning to full open access, with the journal of the German Linguistics Association, *Zeitschrift für Sprachwissenschaft*, being among the first and *Linguistics* being among the most recent journals to flip to platinum open-access models (also called diamond open access, i.e. open access without author processing fees).

Well before these developments, however, open-access publishing had become a widely discussed topic, and the journal *Constructions*, established in 2004, was among the first platinum open-access journals in linguistics. Founded by Thomas Hoffmann and Alexander Bergs, it has published some seminal papers that have been highly influential in the field of Construction Grammar – to mention just two, Tomasello (2007) provided a state-of-the-art overview of the usage-based and constructionist approach to child language acquisition, and Cappelle's (2006) notion of "allostructions" has been widely discussed not only in the constructionist literature (see e.g. Hartmann, 2019; Percillier, 2020; De Vaere et al., 2020). At the same time, *Constructions* has been one of the only journals (alongside *Constructions and Frames*) that focuses specifically on constructionist approaches, which come in very different "flavors" (see e.g. Goldberg, 2013). In that sense, the journal occupies an important niche in the linguistic publication landscape.

After almost two decades, Thomas Hoffmann, who served as editor-in-chief of *Constructions* from the very beginning, has decided to pass the baton to us. We are very grateful for this opportunity, and we aim to relaunch *Constructions* and turn it into one of the go-to publication venues for theoretical and empirical research in Construction Grammar. To technically modernize the journal, we have already implemented a few changes which will hopefully contribute to making the journal even more attractive:

- Thanks to the University and State Library (ULB) Düsseldorf, we have set up a new submission system based on Open Journals Systems, which facilitates the workflow for authors, reviewers, and (guest) editors.

- Every paper will receive a Digital Object Identifier (DOI) from now on, which significantly increases the visibility both of individual papers and of the entire journal. DOIs have also been assigned retroactively to all papers published in the journal so far.
- By default, papers will from now on be published under a [Creative Commons BY 4.0](#) license. However, authors can also choose a different, more restrictive license upon request. Importantly, this does of course not affect previously published papers, which retain their original licenses (i.e., the copyright remains with the authors, with all rights reserved). If, however, authors of previously published papers want to have their paper published under a CC license, they are invited to get in touch with us.
- We have developed a new L^AT_EX template that allows authors to submit publication-ready PDFs. Thanks to extensive documentation, the template can be used by L^AT_EX novices as well. Alternatively, we also provide a Word template.
- We are working closely with the University and State Library Düsseldorf to make sure that the long-term archiving of the papers is secured, and we will do our best to make sure that the journal is indexed in the relevant databases. As some of them require a minimum number of publications per year, we hope that the Construction Grammar community will support us by considering “Constructions” as a publication venue.

But many things will also remain unchanged – in particular, the advantages of publishing in *Constructions* will remain the same: For example, each paper can be published immediately after acceptance, which speeds up the publishing process considerably. Also, we adopt the policy that reviews should be completed within six weeks, if at all possible. We hope that this will contribute to avoiding unnecessary delays as well. As the authors retain copyright, all papers can be freely and widely distributed, and the content of the accepted papers can be re-used for various purposes (e.g., as a chapter in the author’s dissertation) without obtaining the publisher’s permission.

Notably, the success stories of shining examples like *Glossa* and *Language Science Press* mentioned at the beginning of this editorial are based on the joint endeavors of vibrant and active communities. We hope that we can build such a community for *Constructions* as well. Especially our excellent editorial board guarantees high-quality reviews by leading experts in the field.

To put our journal back in the spot light, we cordially invite members of the Construction Grammar community (broadly understood) to submit special issue proposals to *Constructions*. We believe that special issues are a good way of further sharpening the profile of the journal, and also a good opportunity to address pertinent questions in the field. For instance, one of the most relevant questions in constructionist approaches is still how exactly the notion of constructions should be defined, and how relations between constructions in the “construct-i-con” can be appropriately modelled. These questions have been discussed extensively in previous papers published in *Constructions*, and special issues can provide a good opportunity to continue this discussion. At the same time, Construction Grammar has extended its scope quite significantly (see e.g. Boogaart et al., 2014) – topics like individual differences between speakers (Anthonissen, 2020), constructional semantics (Willich, 2022) or discourse-pragmatic and sociolinguistic aspects of constructions (Finkbeiner, 2019), among many others,

have become more prevalent in recent years. Those are also topics that warrant further discussion, for which thematic issues would be a good venue.

Needless to say, we also invite regular papers. We would like to reflect the breadth and diversity of constructionist research in the journal both in terms of topics and in terms of contributors. While papers submitted to *Constructions* are subject to the same high standards of peer-review as in other journals, we explicitly also invite work-in-progress reports. This can be particularly attractive for PhD researchers who want to share, for example, the results of pilot studies. We also invite **registered reports**, i.e. conceptual sketches of empirical studies that are peer-reviewed before the actual study is conducted, and published after the data have been collected and analyzed.

We hope that our ideas will resonate in the Construction Grammar community. Last but not least, we would like to thank Thomas Hoffmann for his work on the journal over the last years and decades, as well as the editorial board members, who have welcomed us very warmly and who have all decided to stay on board now that the journal is entering a new era.

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