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## Introduction

Peter Sells

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Proceedings of Conference on  
**Language Documentation & Linguistic Theory 2**

Edited by Peter K. Austin, Oliver Bond, Monik Charette,  
David Nathan & Peter Sells

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## **Introduction**

PETER SELLS

*School of Oriental and African Studies*

The Linguistics Department at the School of Oriental and African Studies was the first linguistics department established in Britain, in 1932. The interests of staff, researchers, students and visitors cover a wide range of theoretical and applied aspects of linguistics, broadly conceived, including syntax, phonology, semantics, sociolinguistics, historical linguistics, language typology, language documentation, language archiving, lexicography, multimedia, language pedagogy, translation studies and research on individual languages and language families. We work on languages spoken on every continent of the world, with considerable emphasis on endangered and under-described languages.

In 2007 the Department celebrated its 75th anniversary with the first LDLT conference. This coincided with the 5th anniversary of the Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project, comprising the Endangered Languages Academic Programme (ELAP), the Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR), and the Endangered Languages Documentation Programme (ELDP). Now, two years on, LDLT2 continues the tradition. The conference aims to bring together researchers working at the intersection of linguistic theory and language documentation and description, with a particular focus on innovative work which advances our techniques, ideas, or understanding, or which expands our horizons regarding the study of language. The LDLT programme committee has decided that each conference should have a theme within this broad remit, and for this year the theme is Africa; roughly half of the conference is concerned with languages of that continent.

This volume contains all of the papers presented at the conference. Our speakers were asked to produce a short version of their papers before the conference and this resulting volume is included in the conference materials distributed to attendees. The papers have been lightly edited for consistency of style and format.

Peter Sells  
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