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Prologue

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EDITOR'S PROLOGUE WELCOME TO THE 12TH VOLUME

Linguistic Portfolios (LP) continues to quench the thirst of all those who enjoy data driven acoustic phonetic publications. Last year at this time, LP had 126,602 downloads. Today, April 06, 2023, the number of downloads stands at 146,476. This means that articles in LP were downloaded **19,874** times, which beats the previous record of **18,110** downloads. The success of LP is in part due to its high level of intellectual integrity. What does this mean? It means that the raw data from which conclusions and inferences are made are provided for all to see. Very few academic journals can make this claim. In some journal, the source data is missing. Readers are provided only with processed data, percentages, and jazzed up charts and graphs. Yet, the raw data is missing. As a result, it is hard to make sense of the information. It is also hard to verify the integrity and the ethics of the author. From its inception, LP made providing the source data a *sine qua non* condition for publication. This is done deliberately because the editor of LP wants to provide data to keep fueling the revolution in speech technology and speech science. Researchers and interested parties know that data from LP is as good as gold!

Volume 12 contains 12 articles, the largest volume ever. The common denominator among all the papers is finding solutions to real-world linguistic problems. Data from five sociophonetics and sociolinguistics papers can help improve the speech recognition functionalities of voice-activated smart devices. Three articles focus on developmental syntax. These papers shed some light on syntactic issues that cause trouble to Somali L2 writers. Somali L2 English is of interest to researchers because the Somalis are the largest immigrant population in our state (Minnesota). For this reason, a concerted effort is made to understand the issues that students face in their English compositions. One article examines infant crying and the annoyance that it causes to parents and caregivers. Shaken Baby Syndrome and Abusive Head Trauma is a growing societal problem. This research aims at understanding the acoustic characteristics of cries that elicit visceral reactions and proposing technological solutions to mitigate or eliminate the harm caused to infants. One article focuses on voice biometrics. The author reviews why Voice is deemed an optimal biometric for safeguarding sensitive information and critical infrastructure. The paper explains how and why Voice can be fused with other modalities for enhanced security and superior liveliness assurance. One paper provides methodological and analytical solutions to the funk and malaise that intonation research has been in for decades. The author looks to psychoacoustics as a possible new way to reinvigorate intonation research worldwide. Another paper explains how acoustic vowel spaces can be used to shed new lights on disordered speech. The diphthongs [aɪ] and [aʊ] are undergoing changes in American English. One paper documents these changes in the dialect of English spoken in Minnesota. Finally, one paper provides acoustic phonetic measurements for singly and doubly articulated stops in Anyi, an Akan language spoken in Côte d'Ivoire. I would like to thank the authors who contributed these exciting publications to LP, Volume 12. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to **Barbara Kennedy, Mahdi Duris, Megan Dell'Acqua, Michel Lopez-Backstrom, and Phillip Klopfenstein** for taking time out of their busy schedules to review and proofread these papers.

LP is open to all students from Minnesota and neighboring states whose papers are innovative and of extremely high academic quality. The only requirement is that papers be recommended by the faculty member who taught the course or who supervised the research project. Their name appears at the end of the paper as the recommender. Co-publication with students is highly recommended because it is an integral part of the academic mentoring process. The deadline for submission is always **December 31st** of each year. *We are now accepting submissions for Volume 13, 2024.* LP adheres to the guidelines of the **National Academy of Sciences**, as explained in the prologue of Volume 7, 2018.¹

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¹ National Academy of Sciences. 2018. *Fostering Integrity in Research*. National Academic Press. Online at: www.nap.edu/21896.