

charting vanishing voices

a collaborative workshop to map endangered oral cultures

29 - 30 June 2012

Convened by Mark Turin

@ CRASSH, 7 West Road, Cambridge

more info: vanishingvoices@gmail.com

www.crassh.cam.ac.uk/events/1685



World Oral Literature Project
voices of vanishing worlds



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Image: Adam Howarth



Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH)

Charting Vanishing Voices: A Collaborative Workshop to Map Endangered Oral Cultures

Friday, 29 June 2012 to Saturday, 30 June 2012

CRASSH, Alison Richard Building, 7 West Road, Cambridge CB3 9DT

Convener

Dr Mark Turin (World Oral Literature Project/University of Cambridge and Yale University)

Conference summary

A two-day collaborative workshop bringing together scholars, digital archivists and international organisations to share experiences of mapping ethno-linguistic diversity using interactive digital technologies.

There is a growing sense of public and scholarly concern about the future of orally transmitted knowledge in the face of rapid socio-economic change. Linguists have responded decisively to the threatened disappearance of many endangered speech forms by embarking on urgent documentation projects, training a new generation of field linguists, and partnering with members of speech communities invested in the preservation and revitalisation of their threatened tongues. Many such collaborations result in visually-rich digital outputs with geospatial components, and represent research findings through web interfaces that use sophisticated protocols to ensure that online access is granted at the appropriate level. Similarly, anthropologists are working with technologists and communities of origin to develop platforms for curating and disseminating cultural heritage in ways that reflect and respond to local needs.

This practical workshop brings university-based researchers in anthropology, geography and linguistics into conversation with representatives from international agencies and organisations that aggregate and disseminate large holdings of ethnographic and linguistic data. Through brief presentations and extended discussions, participants will explore innovative ways of visualising cultural and linguistic diversity and share appropriate techniques and tools for representing endangerment, both cartographically and geospatially.

Presentations will be clustered into thematic panels that address representations of traditional knowledge in digital domains; online anthropology and digital collections; geospatial tools and community activism; speech atlases and language maps from institutional and community perspectives, and a session focussed on visualisation tools used by language archives. Alongside scholars representing leading research programmes in these fields, we will be joined by colleagues from UNESCO, Ethnologue and Alexander Street Press. The workshop will open with a presentation by Tim Brookes of the Endangered Alphabets Project.

Sponsors



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This event is supported by the World Oral Literature Project, the Vanishing Worlds Foundation, Yale University, and the Centre for Research in the Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CRASSH), University of Cambridge.

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Conference programme

Friday, 29 June

- 9.00 - 9.30 Registration
- 9.30 - 9.45 Welcome and Introduction:
Mark Turin (University of Cambridge and Yale University)
- 9.45 - 10.45 **Panel One: Curating Scripts and Visualising Language**
Chair: **Will Hill** (Anglia Ruskin University)
- Tim Brookes** (Endangered Alphabets): *Endangered Alphabets*
Khadija Carroll La (University of Cambridge): *Mapping No-No*
- 10.45 - 11.15 Tea/coffee break
- 11.15 - 12.45 **Panel Two: Anthropology Online and Digital Collections**
Chair: **Charles Chadwyck-Healey** (Vanishing Worlds Foundation)
- Rupert Gatti & Alessandra Tosi** (Open Book Publishers, Cambridge):
The World Oral Literature Series: An Open Access Collaboration between WOLP and Open Book Publishers
Stephen Rhind-Tutt (Alexander Street Press): *Making Silent Voices Heard*
Joséphine Simonnot (Centre de Recherche en Ethnomusicologie):
TELEMETA: An Audio Content Management System for the Web
- 12.45 - 14.00 Lunch
- 14.00 - 15.00 **Panel Three: Geospatial Tools & Community Activism**
Chair: **Piers Vitebsky** (Scott Polar Research Institute)
- Stacey Maples** (Yale University): *Affordable and Expedient: Platforms and Technologies for the Capture and Cartographic Presentation of Linguistic and Cultural Data*
Gary Martin (Global Diversity Foundation and Rachel Carson Centre):
Mapping Advocacy: An Experience with Dusun Peoples of the Ulu Papa
- 15.00 - 15.30 Tea/coffee break
- 15.30 - 17.00 General discussion **Alan Macfarlane** (University of Cambridge)
Logistics: **Mark Turin** (University of Cambridge and Yale University)
- 17.30 - 19.00 Reception at Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology (open to all)
- 19.00 Dinner at St John's Chop House

Saturday, 30 June

- 9.00 - 10.30 **Panel Four: Speech Atlases and Language Maps: Institutional Interventions (I)**
Chair: **Stephen Leonard** (University of Cambridge)
Anahit Minasyan (UNESCO): *UNESCO Atlas of Endangered Languages: Knowledge Brokering between Experts, Speakers and Governments*
Christopher Moseley (UNESCO): *Language Endangerment and Vernacular Literacy – Is There a Link?*
Sebastian Nordhoff (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology): *Glottolog/Langdoc: Charting the Descriptive Status of the World's Languages*
- 10.30 - 11.00 Tea/coffee break
- 11.00 - 12.30 **Panel Five: Speech Atlases and Language Maps: Institutional Interventions (II)**
Chair: **Mark Turin** (University of Cambridge and Yale University)
Lyle Campbell (University of Hawaii): *Why a Catalogue of Endangered Languages?*
Martin Raymond (SIL International): *ScriptSource: Making Information on the World's Scripts and Languages Accessible*
Gwyn Isaac (Smithsonian Institution)
- 12.30 - 14.00 Lunch
- 14.00 - 15.00 **Panel Six: Speech Atlases and Language Maps: Researchers and Communities**
Chair: **Barry Supple** (University of Cambridge)
Cecilia Odé (University of Amsterdam): *How to Disseminate Field Data in an Accessible Format for Speech Communities, Researchers and a Broader Audience*
Sandy Ritchie, Graham Ritchie & Samantha Goodchild (SOAS; European Bioinformatics Institute): *Language Landscape: Mapping the Dynamics of Language Diversity*
- 15.00 - 15.30 Tea/coffee break
- 15.30 - 17.00 **Panel Seven: Language Archives**
Chair: **Alan Macfarlane** (University of Cambridge)
Sebastian Drude (Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics): *Sustainable Solutions for Endangered Languages Data: The Language Archive*
David Nathan (SOAS): *Archive Fever: Making Languages Contagious, or Textually Transmitted Disease?*
Nicholas Thieberger (University of Melbourne): *Mapping Endangered Records of Endangered Cultures*
- 17.00 - 18.00 Discussion
Moderators: **Mark Turin & Mick Gowar**
(University of Cambridge and Yale University; Anglia Ruskin University)
- 18.00 - 19.00 Reception at CRASSH (open to all)



Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH)

Abstracts

Panel One: Curating Scripts and Visualising Language

Tim Brookes (Endangered Alphabets) *Endangered Alphabets*

The Endangered Alphabets Project is a series of carvings, a book and a continuing blog, all of which address the fact that the world has fewer than 100 writing systems and roughly a third of them are endangered—no longer taught in schools, no longer used for commerce or government, understood only by a few elders, restricted to a few monasteries or used only in ceremonial documents, magic spells, or secret love letters. For *Charting Vanishing Voices*, Tim Brookes will display a dozen carvings, each of which displays the word ‘words’ in an endangered writing system.

Born in England and educated at Oxford, Tim Brookes has spent most of his adult life as a writer and teacher in the US, where he is currently the director of the professional writing program at Champlain College in Burlington, Vermont. His Endangered Alphabets Project made its first public appearance in May 2010, as did his book *Endangered Alphabets*. He is also the founder of the Champlain College Publishing Initiative, and the most recent of his twelve books is *The Story So Far: Essays on Publishing in the 21st Century*.

Khadija Carroll La (University of Cambridge) *Mapping No-No*

I present selections from 5000 different diagrams that visually chart subjects such as the vanishing languages that I work on from Sunraysia in Australia, many of which are named with duplicated words meaning no-no. A similarly strong negation is also asserted politically as demands to control permission to access indigenous knowledge contained in language. The need on one hand to map and make accessible and on the other to control permission has created important questions for the digitization and display of archives and museum collections. I will show an example of the *S’abadeb* exhibition that gave voice to objects too sacred to be shown in public by exhibiting recordings of the indigenous languages associated to those things.

I ask how best to design a map that makes research useful to the indigenous communities who live beyond the academic sphere? The challenges for open mapping systems of incomplete yet growing bodies of international and interdisciplinary sources is what this paper will draw attention to. Broader mappings of data in museum



catalogues and the inclusion of indigenous languages for objects and systems of classification are my focus. My art-research offers examples of how to use visually, conceptually and spatially compelling new media to reassess anthropological strategies. Critical of some existing museum techniques, mapping is used here to think through innovating research in exhibitions and online databases.

Khadija Carroll La (PhD, MFA, MA) is a historian, artist, curator and currently a Newton Fellow at the University of Cambridge in the Department for the History and Philosophy of Science and the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology. Her publications such as *Curating Curiosity*, *Object to Project*, and most recently *Art in the Time of Colony* examine the exhibition histories of languages and things. In her work on the endangered languages and cultures in the south east of Australia she has collaborated with The Victorian Aboriginal Corporation for Languages and The Koorie Heritage Trust. Her mappings have been exhibited at the 51st Venice Biennale, The SenseLab, and the Harvard Graduate School of Design, where she completed her doctorate in art history *Imaging Nation*.

Panel Two: Anthropology Online and Digital Collections

Rupert Gatti & Alessandra Tossi (Open Book Publishers, Cambridge) *The World Oral Literature Series: An Open Access Collaboration between WOLP and Open Book Publishers*

Rupert Gatti will speak about the OBP/WOLP joint book series: Open Book Publishers and the World Oral Literature Project teamed up in 2011 to create the World Oral Literature Series in order to preserve and promote the oral literature of indigenous people. All the books in the series will be available for free online in their entirety and will be complemented by audio/video material. Rupert will outline the titles forthcoming in this series and describe publication and funding innovations developed with the first title to be published—the revised edition of the classic *Oral Literature in Africa* by Ruth Finnegan.

Rupert Gatti is a co-founder and Director of Open Book Publishers. He is a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge, where he is a Director of Studies in Economics. His academic work includes microeconomic analysis of competition in online markets.



Stephen Rhind-Tutt (Alexander Street Press) *Making Silent Voices Heard*

Alexander Street Press publishes titles in anthropology such as Oral History Online, Ethnographic Video Online and Smithsonian Global Sound. This presentation will discuss the technical, cataloging and business issues behind these initiatives, including:

- semantic structures, metadata and indexing
- challenges in indexing and searching linear media like film and audio
- privacy, anonymity and cultural sensitivity and open access 'freemium' and hybrid business models that allow non-profits and for-profit organisations to work together
- future developments such as open content annotation and tools for synchronous annotation

Stephen Rhind-Tutt is President of Alexander Street Press, an award winning publisher of online collections for libraries, teaching and education. He has 24 years of experience in Electronic Publishing, with a number of different companies. From 1989-1995 he held a variety of roles at SilverPlatter Information, including Vice President Health Sciences Publishing, and Vice President U.S. Region. In these roles he was responsible for the development, sales and management of more than 200 electronic products, including the first CD-ROM version of HRAF. Until its sale to Proquest Stephen was President of Chadwyck-Healey, Inc. where he developed and distributed more than 100 electronic products, including the world's largest collection of primary texts in English and American Literature. Stephen has spoken at a number of conferences including The Charleston Conference, The Association for Documentary Editors, The Society for Scholarly Publishing and more. He sits on the boards of the Council on Library and Information Resources, the Digital Library Federation and the University of California Press.

Joséphine Simonnot (Centre de Recherche en Ethnomusicologie) *TELEMETA: An Audio Content Management System for the Web*

Researchers in the field of humanities disciplines such as anthropology and linguistic work with a wide variety of documents: pictures, sound recordings, videos and so on. The time-based nature of these audio-visual materials raises issues of access and visualisation. For sound recordings, it is essential to manage the sounds together with their associated metadata, in an effective way, to enrich them.

As there was no open source software available, the Research Center for Ethnomusicology (CREM, CNRS) and the Laboratory of Musical Acoustic (LAM) have



been working together since 2007 on the design of an innovative and collaborative tool. The objective is to improve access, annotation and preservation of intangible heritage.

<http://archives.crem-cnrs.fr>

After a baccalauréat in maths and physics, Joséphine Simonnot graduated from the Paris Ecole Nationale Supérieure Louis Lumière and from Sorbonne University (musicology). She started her career as a sound engineer in the field of classical music records production, and worked for TV and radio.

She studied and recorded vocal music in East Indonesia (Flores, Maluku, Sulawesi) and, in 1999, she was appointed at Musée de l'Homme, Center of research in ethnomusicology (CNRS). Today, Joséphine Simonnot is research engineer and project manager of the web platform Telemeta, aimed at improving access to ethnomusicology sound archives.

Panel Three: Geospatial Tools & Community Activism

Stacey Maples (Yale University) *Affordable and Expedient: Platforms and Technologies for the Capture and Cartographic Presentation of Linguistic and Cultural Data*

An English language (as opposed to technical and incomprehensible) overview of current technologies and platforms for mapping, from fieldwork to presentation. Emphasis will be upon inexpensive (or free), high-tech, low-tech and no-tech solutions for capturing, managing, analysing and presenting ethnographic information.

Stacey Maples is the GIS Specialist for Yale University's Map Collection at Sterling Memorial Library and provides support to the Yale research community in capturing and making sense of the 'where' of their subjects. His work mapping the research interests of Yale scholars has taken him from the beaches of Martha's Vineyard, to Kurdish Northeastern Syria, to the most remote areas of the Mongolian/Chinese border. An archaeologist by training and a technologist by temperament, he is interested in all aspects of mapping, from the aerial imaging of archaeological sites using kites and balloons, to the development of platforms for the gathering of volunteer geographic information.

Gary Martin (Global Diversity Foundation and Rachel Carson Centre) *Mapping advocacy: an experience with Dusun peoples of the Ulu Papar*

Located in the remote upper reaches of the Papar River of Sabah, Malaysia, Buayan-Kionop comprises four villages of indigenous Dusun inhabitants. They are mainly swidden farmers who depend almost fully on the natural environment for subsistence, medicines and materials. Since 2004, the Global Diversity Foundation has supported Sabah Parks and the Buayan-Kionop community to explore options for the establishment and collaborative management of community use zones within Crocker Range Park, which was formally created in 1984. Supported by the UK Darwin Initiative project, we started by working with a team of Buayan-Kionop community researchers to collect baseline data on the resource use patterns of their community. Over three years, we created a GIS and Resource Catchment Area database to map areas important for agriculture, hunting, fishing and gathering of forest products. From 2007 to 2009, we formed the Buayan-Kionop Resource Catchment Assessment Team to establish participatory resource monitoring of key subsistence activities in Buayan-Kionop, with data uploaded to a GIS database and displayed on a scaled 3-dimensional model of the area. In a final Darwin Initiative project, from 2009 to 2012, we are supporting Ulu Papar communities to engage with an imminent Crocker Range Biosphere Reserve nomination that would place the community use areas in the context of UNESCO-recognised buffer and transitional zones. These efforts are proceeding in the shadow of a new and troubling development: the proposed Kaiduan Dam, which would inundate vast areas of the Ulu Papar and displace Dusun people from their traditional lands. In response, we are scaling-up efforts to compile livelihood profiles for nine villages in the Ulu Papar valley, strengthen community institutions and facilitate links with conservation agencies to enable dialogue and foster workable partnerships between government and communities that are vital for the long-term viability of the Ulu Papar biocultural landscape. Some of the innovative approaches we are pursuing include a Biocultural Community Protocol, Biocultural Heritage Centre and Ulu Papar Community and Conservation Campaign.

Gary Martin is an ethno-ecologist who focuses on the inextricable links between biological and cultural diversity and the role of communities in maintaining socio-ecological resilience. He has been involved in conservation and ethnobotanical work for over twenty-five years, conducting applied research and training in more than forty countries. After studying botany at Michigan State University, he received his doctorate in anthropology from the University of California at Berkeley. In 2000, he founded the Global Diversity Foundation (GDF), which helps indigenous peoples and local communities maintain their agricultural, biological, and cultural heritage through long-term projects encompassing research, training and social action. He is the author



of *Ethnobotany*, which has been widely used as a university course textbook and field research manual. From 1998–2011, he was a research fellow and lecturer at the School of Anthropology and Conservation at the University of Kent in Canterbury, UK. Since 2010, he has been a Carson Fellow at the Rachel Carson Center for Society and Environment in Munich, Germany. At GDF, he is responsible for establishing long-term community-based programs on cultural and natural diversity at selected field sites in Asia, Africa and Latin America. He has offered courses on Contemporary Issues in Biocultural Diversity and Ethnoecological Field Methods at various universities and field sites, and since 2011 has headed the Global Environments Summer Academy as part of the Munich International Summer University. He is a native speaker of English, and also speaks Spanish and French.

Panel Four: *Speech Atlases and Language Maps: Institutional Interventions (I)*

Anahit Minasyan (UNESCO) *UNESCO Atlas of endangered languages: knowledge brokering between experts, speakers and governments*

UNESCO published the third edition of its *Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger* in 2009, first as an online database and then as a book. For the past three years, the online version of the Atlas has been an ongoing experiment in a new form of participative data collection and presentation, bringing together traditional survey methodologies with Wikipedia-style user-generated content. The purpose in adopting this pioneering approach was to reach out to broader audiences and to enhance the existing information with the knowledge and experiences of the speakers of the endangered languages.

Most of the nearly 1000 comments and suggestions received since the publication of the online Atlas are from speakers of the endangered languages listed in it. Comments have also been made by linguists and by Governments. This feedback has resulted in updates and revisions of over 250 language entries of the online Atlas, ranging from adjusting community locations to adding or removing languages from the list. The process of data generation and update is an intensive multi-actor effort led by UNESCO, in which the latter plays the role of a coordinator/broker between the various actors concerned. This presentation will focus on the methodological approach of the Atlas, focusing on the way in which it assesses and incorporates the voices of communities while remaining scientifically rigorous.

Anahit Minasyan is UNESCO Programme Specialist in the field of Culture and Focal Point for endangered languages. Prior to joining UNESCO, she worked in the non-profit sector (NGOs and academia) as an editor, researcher and lecturer. She holds a graduate degree in linguistics from Yerevan State University (Armenia) and in social sciences from the Central European University (Budapest).

Christopher Moseley (UNESCO) *Language endangerment and vernacular literacy – is there a link?*

In this paper I shall be using the UNESCO *Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger* as a basis for exploring the question: is there a link between vernacular literacy and endangerment? While the Atlas does not provide an explicit gauge of vernacular literacy in endangered languages, I would like to try to extrapolate from the data in the Atlas, and in related sources such as *Ethnologue*, whether a language can be guaranteed a safer future by being written. This may provide a basis for fruitful further research. It is especially relevant in view of the recent paper by members of the *Ethnologue* editorial team: *The World's Languages in Crisis: An Update*, in which they question some of the assumptions now being made about language endangerment and try to refine a set of criteria for measuring the threat to the world's more vulnerable languages. Are the vulnerable ones the unwritten ones?

Christopher Moseley is the General Editor of the UNESCO *Atlas of the World's Languages in Danger*. From 2007 to 2011 he was Teaching Fellow in Latvian at the School of Slavonic and East European Studies (SSEES) at University College London. Originally from Australia, he came to Britain to study Scandinavian languages in 1974, but since then his main interests have slipped eastwards, to Finland and the Baltic countries. While working as a journalist and translator specialising in Baltic affairs at BBC Monitoring, Caversham, he completed a M.Phil., also at SSEES, on the dying Livonian language of Latvia—a close relative of Estonian. After 19 years' service at the BBC, he became a freelance translator and editor in 2005. He is the author of *Colloquial Estonian* and co-author of *Colloquial Latvian* for Routledge. He has also co-edited the Routledge *Atlas of the World's Languages* and edited the same publisher's *Encyclopedia of the World's Endangered Languages* and most recently the third edition of the *Atlas of the world's languages in danger* for UNESCO. His most recent work is a revision of George Campbell's *Routledge Handbook of Scripts and Alphabets* (2012). He translates into English from Estonian, Latvian, Lithuanian, Finnish, Danish and Swedish.

Book 2.0

World Oral Literature Project
Workshop 2012



RADICAL, HUMANE & DIGITAL

The editors of *Book 2.0* would like to invite articles from workshop participants for a special issue focusing on digital humanities, scheduled for publication in 2013.

Contributions may relate to curating online collections and archives, the design and implementation of new applications that support or enrich research, and emerging forms of cross-disciplinary scholarship that are supported by technology. In particular, we would welcome submissions on innovative publishing and dissemination models that increase access to digitised and born-digital materials. Abstracts of no more than 200 words should be submitted to Dr Mark Turin <mark.turin@yale.edu> and Dr Mick Gowar by 4 August 2012.

Book 2.0 is a new, interdisciplinary peer-reviewed journal focusing on developments in book creation and design—including the latest in technology and software affecting illustration and production. *Book 2.0* also explores innovations in distribution, marketing and sales, and book consumption, and in the research, analysis and conservation of book-related professional practices. Through research articles and reviews, *Book 2.0* provides a forum for promoting the progressive practice in the teaching of writing, illustration, book design and publishing across all sectors.

To read Issue 1, Volume 1 of *Book 2.0* for free, please visit <http://bit.ly/Book201>
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Language Endangerment: Methodologies & New Challenges

Plenary Speakers

Nicholas Ostler (Foundation for Endangered Languages)
*Endangered languages in the New Multi-lingual Order:
Per Genus et Differentiam*

Tjeerd de Graaf (Frisian Academy, The Netherlands)
*The Use of Sound Archives for the Documentation and
Maintenance of Siberian Endangered Languages
and Cultures*

Conference Conveners

Mari Jones (Dept of French/Peterhouse, Cambridge; mcj11@cam.ac.uk)
Christopher Connolly (Dept of Linguistics/Peterhouse, Cambridge;
cpc37@cam.ac.uk)

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Programme and online registration:
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Centre for Research in the Arts, Social Sciences and Humanities (CRASSH)

Sebastian Nordhoff (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology)

Glottolog/Langdoc: Charting the Descriptive Status of the World's Languages

Glottolog/Langdoc is a knowledge base of 175,000 references linked to over 94,000 'languoids' (languages, dialects, families). We store names, codes, genealogies, locations, and references and make them available as part of the Linguistic Linked Open Data Cloud in the Semantic Web. References are annotated for macro area, languages covered and document type, allowing for queries such as 'Give me any dictionary published in the 19th century which treats a Semitic language spoken in Eurasia'. References can be downloaded in a variety of formats, among which Zotero and bibtex.

Sebastian Nordhoff (MPI-EVA Leipzig) is a fieldworker and a computational linguist. He has worked on languages of Paraguay and Sri Lanka and is presently working on expanding the Linguistic Linked Open Data Cloud, an effort to connect various linguistic knowledge bases in the Semantic Web.

Panel Five: Speech Atlases and Language Maps: Institutional Interventions (II)

Lyle Campbell (University of Hawaii) *Why a Catalogue of Endangered Languages?*

This talk is a report on the *Catalogue of Endangered Languages*, prepared by linguists at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa and Eastern Michigan University. It explains the Catalogue's purpose, its contributions, why it is necessary, how it is being developed, and its findings to date. It relates its potential benefits for language groups/community members, linguists, other scholars, funding agencies, and the public at large.

Lyle Campbell (PhD UCLA) is professor of Linguistics at the University of Hawai'i Mānoa. He has held joint appointments in Linguistics, Anthropology, Behavioural Research, Latin American Studies, and Spanish, and has been visiting professor at universities in Australia, Brazil, Canada, Finland, Germany, Mexico, and Spain. He is on 18 editorial boards, and has published 20 books and c.200 articles. He won the Linguistic Society of America's 'Leonard Bloomfield Book Award' twice, for *Historical Syntax in Cross-linguistics Perspective* (Alice Harris & L. Campbell, 1995, Cambridge University Press), and *American Indian Languages: the Historical Linguistics of Native America* (1997, Oxford University Press). His specialisations are: documentation of



endangered languages, language revitalisation, historical linguistics, American Indian languages, typology, and Uralic. His current projects include the Catalogue of Endangered Languages and documentation of several Latin American Indian languages.

Martin Raymond (SIL International) *ScriptSource: Making Information on the World's Scripts and Languages Accessible*

Although there is plenty of script information on the web, there has been a need for a web site to present the information authoritatively and clearly, making it easier to understand the often complex relationships between scripts, characters and languages. ScriptSource has been designed to meet that need and to answer questions such as: ‘Which scripts can be used to write that language?’, or, ‘Which writing systems use this Unicode character?’. ScriptSource imports language data from the Ethnologue, character data from Unicode and locale data from the CLDR (Common Locale Data Repository).

ScriptSource also provides a place where people can document languages and scripts for the benefit of everyone. Registered users can add information in the form of entries, which may include links to other sites. They can also post ‘needs’ to enlist help in solving script-related problems. This session will cover some of the needs ScriptSource has been designed to meet, as well as showing the depth of information available on the site. SIL's Ethnologue website, covering the world's languages, will also be presented.

Martin Raymond, from Macclesfield, England, worked in commercial IT for 25 years before joining SIL International's Non-Roman Script Initiative team (NRSI) in 2007. Most of his work for the NRSI has been as a PHP programmer on the ScriptSource project, with particular responsibility for security and user information management. He now serves as a content editor and site administrator for ScriptSource.



Panel Six: *Speech Atlases and Language Maps: Researchers and Communities*

Cecilia Odé (University of Amsterdam) *How to Disseminate Field Data in an Accessible Format for Speech Communities, Researchers and a Broader Audience*

During my many fieldtrips to Papua and Siberia, frequently asked questions by the speech communities I work with are: ‘What is this research for? Where and in what language will it be published? Is it only scientific work? Where will my pictures and movies go to? Will I ever see anything of it? How much money will you make with our knowledge? Will I ever get a penny for it?’. In case studies on two peoples, the Mpur (Bird’s Head, Papua, Indonesia) and the Tundra Yukagir (Sakha, Russian Federation, North East Siberia), I will illustrate how to deal with these frustrations of native speakers, and how to answer their questions, by offering solutions from which both speech communities, researchers and a broader audience may benefit: next to their scientific publications in whatever sophisticated form or in databases, fieldworkers should publish their field-data for free as a traditional hardcopy and in an easily accessible digital text format, adjusted to daily use (original texts, annotations, translations), with audiovisual cd’s and dvd’s (stories, music, movies, provided with metadata, textbooklets, subtitles) that can immediately be used by a broader audience and by native speakers at home, in school and in cultural centres. Being aware of the fact that usually fieldworkers don’t have time to realise this ideal, or don’t have a budget for assistants to do the job, I still find this a primary task for fieldworkers.

I received my education in Slavic Linguistics and Phonetics at Amsterdam University. After defending my PhD in Leiden in 1989 on a fundamental study of Russian intonation, I continued my work on Russian intonation at the Institute for Perception Research (Eindhoven) and on Indonesian prosody at Leiden University. In 1993 I joined the (WOTRO) Irian Jaya Studies research programme in Leiden. During long periods between 1993 and 2002, I did fieldwork and studied Mpur (a West Papuan language). I re-applied my expertise to the field of Slavic Studies in 2002 with NWO-project Description and Transcription of Russian Intonation (ToRI) for which I developed a website (www.fon.hum.uva.nl/tori). From 1991 onwards I held workshops at conferences and universities in Jakarta, Bandung, Kuala Lumpur, Canberra, Almaty, Washington, Moscow, St Petersburg, Ulan Ude, Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk and Yakutsk, for fieldworkers, linguists, teachers and students on studying prosodic phenomena and on the problem of endangered languages. I developed a website on endangered

languages in five languages (Brazilian Portuguese, Dutch, English, Russian, Spanish): www.endangeredlanguages.nl. I am an ethnolinguist with experience in the study of exotic prosodic phenomena. I am also a photographer and videocineast, and I write impressions of my fieldwork. At present I work at Amsterdam University on the project Tundra Yukagir for which I did fieldwork in Siberia in 2003-5 and 2009-12. For more information and a list of publications and lectures see my website: <http://home.medewerker.uva.nl/c.ode/>.

Sandy Ritchie, Graham Ritchie & Samantha Goodchild (SOAS; European Bioinformatics Institute) *Language Landscape: Mapping the Dynamics of Language Diversity*

languagelandscape.org is a website designed to map language recordings where they were made. Users add audio or video recordings to the map and supply a wide range of linguistic and contextual annotation. The recording is then shown on the map where users can listen to it and browse the associated metadata. We have designed a flexible data schema which supports intelligent querying of the recording database allowing, for example, users to search for all recordings within a language family and then see all recordings on the map. The project has three main goals. The first is to offer speakers of minority and endangered languages an online platform where they can represent their language and culture. We also want to encourage more people to provide and access language data on the website in the hope that this will help raise awareness about language endangerment and related issues. Finally, we want to experiment with an innovative way of mapping languages. We map individual instances of language use according to where they happened. The resulting map is a series of snapshots of people engaging in communication at a certain time and place. We hope that as the project grows our underlying schema will facilitate mining of the data to reveal empirical patterns of global language use.

Sandy Ritchie is currently studying for a PhD at SOAS, University of London. His research focuses on valency changing operations in Chimane, an under-described isolate language of Amazonian Bolivia. He also works on metadata curation in the Endangered Languages Archive.

Graham Ritchie is a Research Fellow at the European Bioinformatics Institute where he works on developing computational techniques to interpret genetic variation. He received his PhD from the University of Edinburgh for theoretical work modelling the evolution of the language faculty.

Samantha Goodchild is currently studying for an MA in Language Documentation and Description at SOAS, University of London. She also works as a copy editor for the journal *Language Documentation and Description*, as well as other publications.



Panel Seven: *Language Archives*

Sebastian Drude (Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics): *Sustainable Solutions for Endangered Languages Data: The Language Archiv*

Language endangerment is by now a well-known topic, and language documentation one well-established academic discipline that aims at addressing this urgent issue. Language documentation in the modern sense is concerned with creating lasting records of language in the natural environment by building annotated multi-media corpora, among other resources. A crucial point here is to ensure that the data are archived in a sustainable way – they ought to be available and usable for years and decades to come, as the basis for further research, educational projects or language revitalisation activities. Generally there is yet little awareness of the fact that the data about endangered languages are endangered themselves. This talk presents the activities and solutions being developed at The Language Archive at the Max-Planck-Institute for Psycholinguistics in Nijmegen that aim at providing tools and an infrastructure that supports the creation and long-term archiving of precious language data.

Sebastian Drude is the Scientific Coordinator of The Language Archive (TLA) at the Max-Planck-Institute for Psycholinguistics. He is a documentary / anthropological linguist interested in linguistic diversity and language technology. Since 1998, he has conducted fieldwork among the Awetí indigenous group in Central Brazil, participating in the DOBES (Documentation of Endangered Languages) research program from 2000. From 2008 onwards he was a Diltthey Fellow at University of Frankfurt before, in November 2011, he went to the MPI Nijmegen joining the leading group of TLA, which hosts the central DOBES language archive and develops tools and infrastructure for linguistics and the digital humanities.

David Nathan (SOAS) *Archive Fever: Making Languages Contagious, or Textually Transmitted Disease?*

Jacques Derrida's well-known *Archive Fever* (1995) resonates with current issues we face in developing digital archives which cater for the needs of endangered language speakers, researchers and data. On one hand today sees positive developments such as outbreaks of enthusiasm for open data, broader participation, and user influence on goals and methods; on the other hand Derrida's *mal d'archive* reminds us of the

limitations to progress while archiving remains dedicated to a narrow typology of written texts.

Reference

Jacques Derrida and Eric Prenowitz. 1995. Archive Fever: A Freudian Impression. *Diacritics*, Vol. 25, No. 2, pp. 9-63. The Johns Hopkins University Press [<http://www.jstor.org/stable/465144>]

For nearly 20 years David has worked with computing applications for endangered languages, especially Australian Aboriginal languages. He developed software for language research, publication, and education; and his conventional publications include the textbook/CD-ROM *Australia's Indigenous Languages*, and papers on lexicography, the Internet, multimedia and archiving. He was co-author (with Peter Austin) of the web's first hypertext dictionary (Gamilaraay/Kamilaroi), and established web sites including at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), the Aboriginal Languages of Australia Virtual Library, the Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project and the Endangered Languages Archive. David ran the former Aboriginal Studies Electronic Data Archive (ASEDA) at AIATSIS, and is now leading development of the Endangered Languages Archive (ELAR), with its close connections to issues in language documentation, language support, and linguistic research, and how these connections can be supported through innovative web technologies.

Nicholas Thieberger (University of Melbourne) *Mapping Endangered Records of Endangered Cultures*

As the global effort to record as much as possible of the world's linguistic diversity proceeds apace there is a great need to ensure the longevity of the records created. While, optimistically, the records created by academic linguists should be 'well-formed' (and so be easily accessioned into an archive), there is a great deal of recording that is not in an academic context and has less chance of being 'well-formed'. More realistically it is also clear that many academics are still not engaged with new methods, and their primary recordings (if they actually make any) risk being lost completely. The first step in visualising such data using web-based tools is for it to be properly described from the moment of recording. *ExSite* is a tool our team is working on that will create collections on the laptop in a form that allows them to be delivered to an archive.



Once the material is in a collection, there are a number of options for access and representation of the collection. The Pacific and Regional Archive for Digital Sources in Endangered Cultures (PARADISEC) is creating streaming access to all items in its collection (subject to deposit conditions) and we have also explored streaming media with time-aligned glossed transcripts (*Eopas*). We are adding records to our catalog to describe collections that are outside language archive networks, in order to make those collections discoverable. An example is a collection of keyboarded versions of missionary material in languages of the Pacific (<http://anglicanhistory.org/oceania/>) for which records in our catalog now provide a link from the Open Language Archives Community (OLAC) search tool.

To visualise language archives as a global network rather than as a single language archive requires archives to agree on standard representations of their metadata and their collections. The international network of archives, the Digital Endangered Languages and Musics Archives Network (DELAMAN) has the potential to create such standards, as does OLAC. Having created interoperating metadata repositories is a prerequisite to the task of creating visualisations of the collections.

Along these lines, see the discussion at the following blog posts:

Where are the records? (Blog post on *Endangered Languages and Cultures* June 7th, 2011, <http://www.paradisec.org.au/blog/2011/06/5649>)

You gotta be in it to win it (Blog post on *Endangered Languages and Cultures* May 29th, 2011. <http://www.paradisec.org.au/blog/2011/05/you-gotta-be-in-it-to-win-it>)

Nicholas Thieberger works with South Efate, a language from central Vanuatu and Warnman, an Australian language from Western Australia. In 2003 he helped establish PARADISEC (paradisec.org.au), a digital archive (of which he continues to be Project Manager) that holds over 3,300 hours of digital media representing more than 700 languages. He is a co-director the Resource Network for Linguistic Diversity (RNLD) and in 2008 he established a linguistic archive at the University of Hawai'i. He is interested in developments in e-humanities methods and their potential to improve research practice and he is now developing methods for creation of reusable data sets from fieldwork on previously unrecorded languages. He is the editor of the journal *Language Documentation & Conservation*. He taught in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and is now an Australian Research Council QEII Fellow at the University of Melbourne.



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Charting Vanishing Voices: A Collaborative Workshop to Map Endangered Oral Cultures

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Lying at the intersection of anthropology and linguistics, the study of oral genres is an exciting and developing field, but one with few publishing outlets. The richness and contextual meaning of oral narratives is often lost in the process of writing them down. With the development of digital publishing, an audio appendix can now accompany the written word. Open Book Publishers has been developing these technologies to expand the academic book beyond the printed page.

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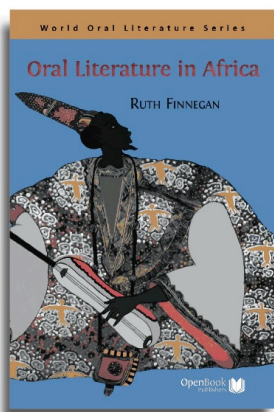
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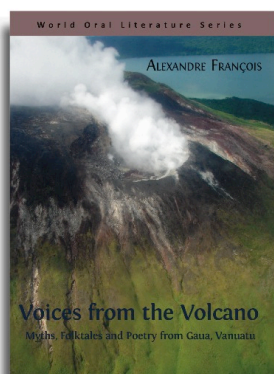
Oral Literature in Africa

Ruth Finnegan

Since its first publication in 1970, this classic study has been hailed as "the single most authoritative work on oral literature". This revised edition includes a new introduction, sections on poetry, epic, prose, "drum language" and drama, and an overview of the social, linguistic and historical background of oral literature in Africa.

When this book was first published it was technologically impossible to include the many illustrative recordings that Ruth Finnegan took during her fieldwork. For the first time we will be making these clips available in an online archive.

Available: late Summer 2012



Voices from the Volcano:

Myths, Folktales and Poetry from Gaua, Vanuatu

Alexandre François

This is the first bilingual collection ever published on the cultures of northern Vanuatu. Focusing on the island of Gaua, it includes twenty stories, from myths and children's tales to personal histories and sung poetry. Each story is situated in its cultural and literary context, and presented in both its original vernacular and in English.

The book provides a lasting testimony to the rich oral literature of a vibrant island culture.

Available: early 2013

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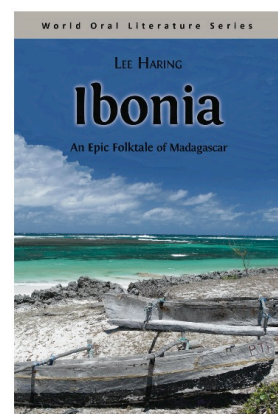
An Epic Folktale of Madagascar

Lee Haring

This is the first English translation of a heroic, episodic folktale — part sung, part spoken — from highland Madagascar. Recorded when its people were experiencing European contact for the first time, it proclaims the power of the ancestors against the foreigner.

Lee Haring's definitive translation, originally published in 1994, has now been fully revised to emphasize its poetic qualities and make the epic more accessible to readers. His new introduction and notes give profound insight into the fascinating imagination of the Malagasy.

Available: Autumn 2012



Other forthcoming titles include:

Storytelling and Telling Stories in Northern Zambia: Theory, Method, Practice and Other Necessary Fictions

Robert Cancel

Storytelling plays an important part in the vibrant cultural life of Zambia and in many other communities across Africa. This book provides a collection and analysis of oral narrative traditions as practiced by five Bemba-speaking ethnic groups.

Quechan Traditional Stories

Amy Miller

This book is a collection of eleven traditional stories from Quechan (Native American) oral literature, presented in the Quechan language with an English translation and introductory material.



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The fire evacuation points are situated towards the ends of the wings on all floors, with further evacuation routes through the ground floor lobby and Arc cafe. Internal fire evacuation doors will default to open but the final evacuation door from the building will need to be opened by pressing the green release button. During an evacuation, do not use the main stairwell as this route will be closed off by the fire curtain. If you are on the stairs when the alarm sounds make your way to the next floor landing and use the fire escape route on that floor.

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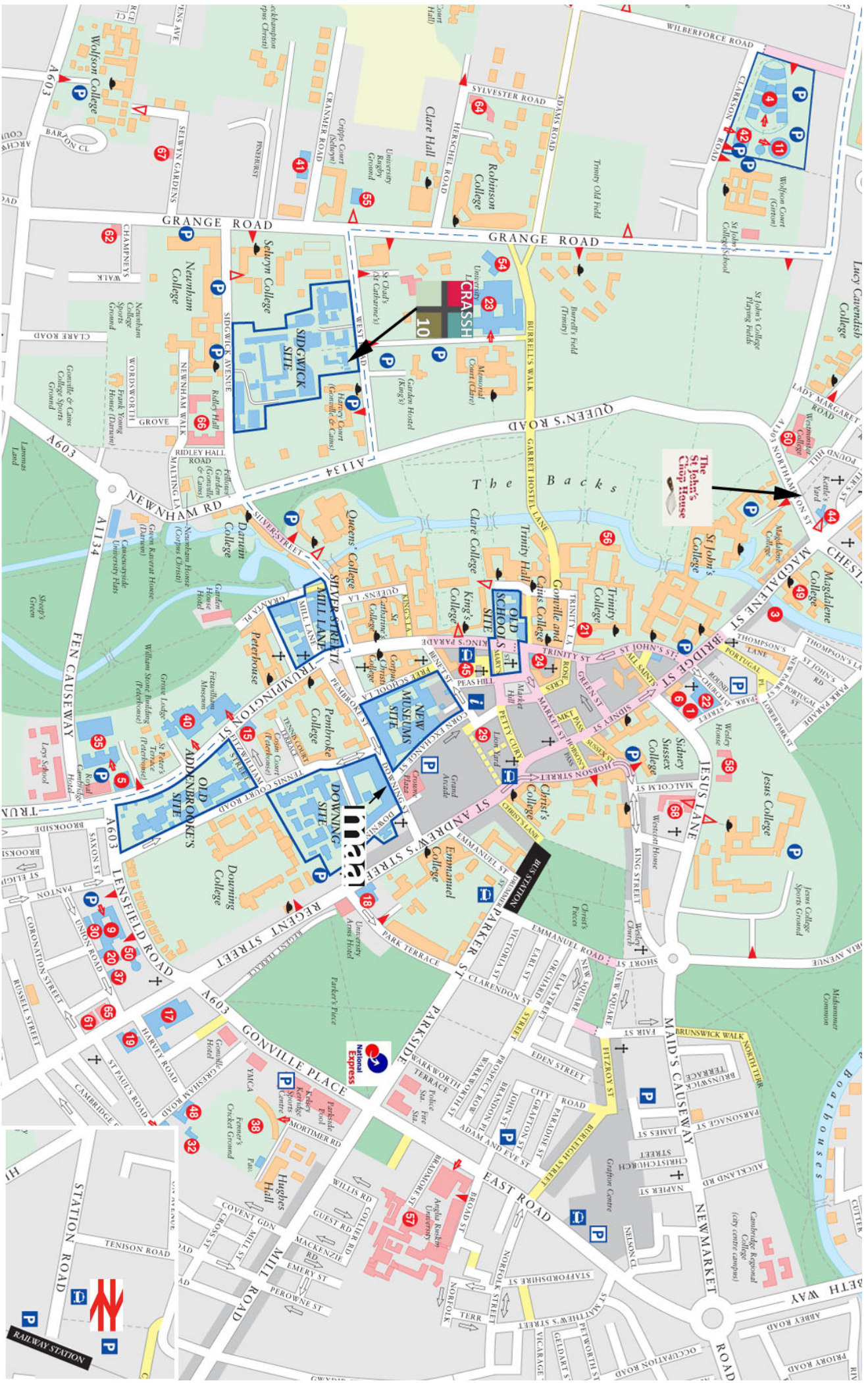
The Café is operated by Grayson's and is open five days a week between 8:30am and 5pm. There is a coffee vending machine in the Law Faculty, which is open on Saturdays from 9am.

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