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Published in:
Sociolinguistica

DOI:
[10.1515/soci-2020-0018](https://doi.org/10.1515/soci-2020-0018)

Publication date:
2020

Document Version
Version created as part of publication process; publisher's layout; not normally made publicly available

[Link to publication](#)

Citation for pulished version (HARVARD):

Darquennes, J 2020, 'Three decades of sociolinguistic bibliographies: a wealth of data waiting to be thoroughly explored', *Sociolinguistica*, vol. 34, pp. 267-276. <https://doi.org/10.1515/soci-2020-0018>

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Article-DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1515/soci-2020-0018>

Article-Title: Three decades of sociolinguistic bibliographies: a wealth of data waiting to be thoroughly explored

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Data checked and receipted

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Bibliographie/Bibliography/Bibliographie

Jeroen Darquennes

Three decades of sociolinguistic bibliographies: a wealth of data waiting to be thoroughly explored

In the preface to the first volume of *Sociolinguistica*, the yearbook's founding editors (Ulrich Ammon, Klaus Mattheier and Peter Nelde) expressed their hope that the yearbook would positively "contribute to a better coordination of the many facets of European sociolinguistic research". Networks of sociolinguists working in different countries already existed back in 1987, but they were perceived by the editors as "generally poorly developed or limited to only a few countries". Scanning the bibliographies of publications available to them, the editors also noticed that sociolinguists considered "often only research in one's own country or in a country with an easily accessible language" and that "definitive studies [in the French version of the preface they use the adjective 'fondamental', jd] published elsewhere remain[ed] unknown". They saw it as the main task of the yearbook to "avoid ... isolation, to create contacts and to contribute to cross-fertilization within sociolinguistics throughout Europe as a whole" (Ammon/Mattheier/Nelde 1987: IX).

In retrospect, the question deserves to be asked if the 34 volumes of the yearbook have really helped to create a denser European sociolinguistic community. Providing a straightforward answer to this question is far from easy. In fact, it would require a careful analysis of the kind of bi- and multilateral network ties that the yearbook (as well as yearbook-related activities) *as such* helped to create over the past 34 years. It would also require a careful analysis of the way in which the web of authors that contributed to *Sociolinguistica* overlaps with the exchange and the interactive networks that were part of the first-order ego networks of the original editors or still are part of the first-order ego networks of their successors (i. e. Sue Wright who succeeded Klaus Mattheier in 2008, Jeroen Darquennes who succeeded Peter Nelde in 2008 and Leigh Oakes who succeeded Sue Wright in 2018). A detailed analysis of the above-mentioned networks clearly goes beyond the scope of this contribution. With many of the scholars who published in the yearbook still alive, it might nonetheless be worthwhile pursuing such an analysis in itself or as part of a wider project on the development of applied linguistics on the European continent (cf. Darquennes [2013: 20] for a brief outline of such a project). A historical sociological account of the way in which sociolinguistic networks developed in Europe would help the research community to gain a more complete understanding of the field and of the way in which personal ties sometimes tend to have an influence on the circulation and the promotion of research topics and ideas.

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When it comes to the analysis of the circulation of topics, *Sociolinguistica* can serve as a useful source in at least two ways. Given the thematic focus of the yearbook (cf. Table 1 for a complete list of the volumes published so far), the bibliographies of the chapters of each issue offer an overview of research that exists at a certain point in time on a certain (broad or specific) topic. The fact that the yearbook covers some topics more than once – e. g. main issues in sociolinguistics (volumes 1, 14 and 20), language standardization (volumes 2, 17, 29 and 30), dialects and language variation (volumes 10, 12, 22 and 26), language use in educational settings (volumes 3, 7, 24 and 34), historical sociolinguistics (volumes 13 and 31) and a variety of language policy issues in European settings (the majority of the volumes) – allows us to trace certain changes or consistencies in the ‘bibliographical anchorage’ of topic-specific research literature over a certain period of time. Of even greater importance for an analysis of the circulation of sociolinguistic topics is the ‘European-wide’ sociolinguistic bibliography included in each volume. At a time when online search engines did not yet exist and library users still relied heavily on the use of index cards, the founding fathers of the yearbook engaged in establishing a network of sociolinguistic correspondents whose main task it was to compile country-specific sociolinguistic bibliographies covering the publication year two years prior to each issue. Published in 1987, the first bibliography thus covered the year 1985, while the last bibliography, published in the present volume, covers the year 2018.

The philosophy behind the European sociolinguistic bibliography never really changed. It was never meant to provide an exhaustive overview of sociolinguistic monographs, collections, book chapters or journal articles published by scholars active in a specific European country. Rather, each of the 34 bibliographies aims to offer as complete a picture as possible of the dynamics of sociolinguistics in a (because of the non-availability of country correspondents rather fluctuating) selection of European countries. As Table 2 reveals, the most complete bibliographies (2002 and 2003) contain an inventory of sociolinguistic publications in 38 countries, while the shortest (2018) contains an overview of publications in 15 countries. Table 2 also reveals that the bibliographies reflect geopolitical changes that took place in Europe ranging from German unification to the implosion of the USSR and the creation of a series of new independent states in Central and Eastern Europe after the fall of the Iron Curtain.

One of the most distinctive features of the sociolinguistic bibliography is that it has tried to pay equal attention to sociolinguistic publications in all corners of Europe from the very beginning. Over the past decade, however, the bibliography clearly lost momentum as far as its geographical coverage is concerned. It not only proved increasingly difficult to find a replacement for the correspondents who – after sometimes many years of loyal service – wanted to pass on the torch. In an era characterized by the development and the increased use of interactive and dynamic digital tools, the editors as well as some correspondents also started to question the printed (and therefore also linear and static) nature of the bibliography. At an editorial meeting in Berlin

Table 1: Issues of *Sociolinguistica* published between 1987 and 2020

Vol.	Year	Title (in English)
1	1987	<i>Main issues in sociolinguistics</i>
2	1988	<i>Standardisation of European national languages: Romania, Germania</i>
3	1989	<i>Dialect and school in the European countries</i>
4	1990	<i>Minorities and language contact</i>
5	1991	<i>Status and function of the languages in the political bodies of the European Community</i>
6	1992	<i>The rise of national languages in Eastern Europe</i>
7	1993	<i>Multilingual concepts in the schools of Europe</i>
8	1994	<i>English only? In Europe</i>
9	1995	<i>European identity and language diversity</i>
10	1996	<i>Convergence and divergence of dialects in Europe</i>
11	1997	<i>Monolingualism is curable</i>
12	1998	<i>Linguistics of variation</i>
13	1999	<i>Historical sociolinguistics</i>
14	2000	<i>The future of European sociolinguistics</i>
15	2001	<i>Lingua francas in Europe – except English</i>
16	2002	<i>Language policy and small languages</i>
17	2003	<i>Language standards</i>
18	2004	<i>Codeswitching</i>
19	2005	<i>Economy and language</i>
20	2006	<i>Perspectives of sociolinguistics</i>
21	2007	<i>Linguistic consequences of the EU-enlargement</i>
22	2008	<i>Sociodialectology</i>
23	2009	<i>Language choice in European companies</i>
24	2010	<i>Foreign languages in the schools of the European Union</i>
25	2011	<i>Language and religion</i>
26	2012	<i>MIX – Language varieties in contact</i>
27	2013	<i>New media practices: the language dimension</i>
28	2014	<i>European national language institutions' attitudes and policies towards English as the European lingua franca</i>
29	2015	<i>The standardization of minority languages</i>
30	2016	<i>Language standardization: Theory and practice</i>
31	2017	<i>Historical multilingualism: Language contact, use and planning</i>
32	2018	<i>Language choice in tourism: Focus on Europe</i>
33	2019	<i>Linguistic justice in an interdisciplinary context</i>
34	2020	<i>Language diversity management in higher education</i>

in September 2019, the decision was taken to no longer include the bibliography as part of the printed issue from volume 35 onwards.

At this stage we do not want to rule out a digital restart of the bibliography, but finding the financial and human resources that would allow us meet the current standards of digital research practices proves to be a major challenge. Pending a potential digital restart, we do, however, hope that the existing collection of sociolinguistic bibliographies will not fall into oblivion and will prove to be a useful resource for students and researchers interested in the development of European sociolinguistics. The sociolinguistic bibliography not only has the potential to function as a solid basis for an historical overview of trending topics in sociolinguistics in different parts of Europe, it also complements the information found in chapters similar to those in *The handbook of sociolinguistics around the world* (Ball 2010), which as far as Europe is concerned, cover the German-speaking area, the Dutch-language area, the Nordic region, the British Isles, France, Italy, Spain and Portugal, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Poland, the Balkans, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova and the Baltic States.

This small contribution on three decades of sociolinguistic bibliographies would be incomplete without mentioning and paying tribute to the many faithful correspondents on which the editors of the yearbook could rely. Table 3 contains the complete list of persons who acted as a sociolinguistic correspondent during one or more of the past 34 years. The correspondents who steadily kept on sending us sociolinguistic bibliographies for more than twenty years are Gaetano Berrutto, the late Thierry Bullot, Jenny Cheshire, Ina Druviete, Hans Goebel, the late Jens Normann Jørgensen, Laima Kalédiene, Georges Lüdi, Sonia Novak-Lukanović, Slavomír Ondrejovič, Angel Pachev, Hele Pärn, Joachim Raith, Helge Sandøy, Natalia Troshina and Francisco J. Zamora. Gudrun Held deserves special mention because she started gathering data for the Austrian bibliography in 1988 and has kept on doing so ever since. Our most faithful correspondent, however, is Ranko Bugarski, who served the yearbook from volume 1 to volume 34. His scholarship, wisdom, wit and patience shimmered through in every mail that I had the pleasure of reading. A heartfelt thank you to Ranko and all the other correspondents who helped us gather a wealth of data which I hope will be thoroughly explored in the near future.

Table 3: List of sociolinguistic correspondents listed between 1987–2020

Country	Country code	Correspondent	Years active
Albania	AL	Shaban Demíraj Sadetin Hoxha	1992–1994 2000–2006
Austria	AT	Hans Goebel Gudrun Held	1987–2013 1988–2020
Belarus	BY	A. Lukashanets	1997–2006
Belgium	BE	Michael Hinderdael Peter Nelde Sonja Vandermeeren Stefaan Hermans Peter Weber Jeroen Darquennes	1987–1991 1987–1988 1992–1993 1994–1999 2000–2006 2004–2020
Bosnia and Herzegovina	BA	Jurai Martinovic	2000–2006
Bulgaria	BG	Christo Choliotchev Angel Pachev	1987 1988–2013
Croatia	HR	Damir Kalogjera Barbara Kovačević Anita Skelin Horvat	1994–1995 2000–2006 2010–2020
Czechoslovakia	CS	František Daneš Jiří Nekvapil Slavomír Ondrejovič	1987–1988 1989–1993 1992–1993
Czech Republic	CZ	Jiří Nekvapil Petr Kaderka	1994–2006 2007–2020
Denmark	DK	Normann Jørgensen Janus Spindler-Møller	1987–2012 2013
Estonia	EE	Mart Ranutt Hele Pärn	1994–1998 1996–2020
Faroe Islands	FO	Helge Sandøy	2009–2019
Finland	FI	Erik Allardt Pirkko Nuolijärvi Tom Sandlund Marika Tandefelt Marianne Tikka/Broermann	1987–1989 1988–1989 1990–1993 1994–2003 2004–2006/ 2007–2019
France	FR	Jean-Baptiste Marcellesi Evelyne Bulot Véronique Denis Yves Gambier Thierry Bulot Foued Laroussi	1987–1993 1988/1994 1988 1988 1990–2016 1994

Table 3 (continued)

Country	Country code	Correspondent	Years active
		Nicolas Tsekos	1995
		Elatiana Razafi	2008–2014
		Mélanie Texier	2012–2014
		Gudrun Ledegen	2013–2019
Germany	FRG	Ulrich Ammon	1987–1988
		Klaus J. Mattheier	1987–1988
		Joachim Raith	1989–1993
	GDR	Wolfdietrich Hartung	1987–1992
	DE	Joachim Raith	1993–2011
		Jeroen Darquennes	2012
		Birte Kellermeier-Rehbein	2013–2019
Great Britain	GB	Jenny Cheshire	1987–2012
		Leigh Oakes	2013–2018
		Jakob Leimgruber	2019
Greece	GR	Eliza Kitis	1987–1993
		Lukas D. Tsitsipis	1994–2006
		Dionysos Goutsos	2010–2020
		Argyris Archakis	2010–2020
Hungary	HU	Sándor Györi-Nagy	1987–1991
		Miklós Kontra	1992–1999
		Anna Borbély	2000–2017
		Balázs Sinkovics	2018–2020
Iceland	IS	Kristján Arnason	1989–1990/2000
		Thornstein G. Indriþason	1993–1999
Ireland	IE	John Harris	1987–2000/
		Pádraig O’Riagáin	2004–2006/2009
Italy	IT	Monica Berretta	1987–1995
		Gaetano Berruto	1996–2020
Latvia	LV	Ina Druviete	1994–2019
Lithuania	LT	Laima Grumadiene/Kalėdiene	1994–2008/2009–2019
Luxembourg	LU	Fernand Hoffmann	1987–1994
		Harald Fröhlich	1995
		Nico Weber	1996–2006
		Peter Gilles	2007–2010/
			2012–2020
		Jeroen Darquennes	2011
Macedonia	MK	Liliana Minova-Gurkova	1999–2007
Malta	MT	Manwel Mifsud	2004–2006

Table 3 (continued)

Country	Country code	Correspondent	Years active
Moldavia	MD	Vasile Dumbrava	2004–2006
The Netherlands	NL	Marinel Gerritsen Durk Gorter Adriana Kaspers Sjaak Kroon	1987–1993 1994–2007 2008–2009 2010–2014
Norway	NO	Geirr Wiggen Helge Sandøy Magnhild Selås Edit Bugge Randi Neteland	1987–1999 2000–2008 2008–2013 2012 2014–2020
Poland	PL	Franciszek Grucza	1987–2006
Portugal	PT	Maria F. Rezende Matias M. Celeste Van Egmond- Augusto Cláudia Fernandes	1987–2004 2005–2020 2018–2020
Rumania	RO	Tatiana Slama-Cazacu Marina Ciolac Sabina Teiuş Antoaneta Olteanu Andrei A. Avram Diana Ghido Domnita Tomescu	1987–1988/ 1994–1995/ 1997–2006 1987–1988 1989–1993 1996–2000 2001–2003 2004 2005–2006
Russia	RU	Leonid P. Krysin Natalia Troshina	1993–1999 2000–2020
Serbia	RS	Ranko Bugarski	2003–2020
Slovakia	SK	Slavomír Ondrejovič	1994–2018
Slovenia	SI	Sonia Novak-Lukanović	1994–2015
Soviet Union	SU	Leonid P. Krysin	1987–1993
Spain	ES	Miguel Siguan i Soler Santiago Mollfulleda Francisco J. Zamora	1987–1988 1989–1990 1991–2019
Sweden	SE	Bengt Nordberg Britt-Louise Gunnarsson Anna-Malin Karlsson Rasmus Lund Emil Paulsrud	1987–2002 2003–2012 2013–2015 2013 2014–2015

Table 3 (continued)

Country	Country code	Correspondent	Years active
Switzerland	CH	Georges Lüdi Simone Pekarek	1987–2001/2005–2013 2002–2004
Ukraine	UA	Yaroslav Pylynskyi Liubov Lazarenko	2000–2003 2004–2006
Yugoslavia	YU	Ranko Bugarski	1987–2003

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