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Formal Grammar**

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**CENTER FOR THE STUDY
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Introduction

The Formal Grammar conference series began in 1996 as a forum for new and original linguistics research within formal frameworks, to give linguists and mathematicians an opportunity to interact, and thereby foster precise linguistic analyses along with new generations of empirically relevant models for use in characterizing the structure of natural languages. Although the representation of mainstream linguists at the European Summer School of Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI), with which Formal Grammar is usually co-located, has indeed waned over the years, Formal Grammar has so far managed to maintain a very pleasing balance between theory and practice that continues to attract an impressive range of scholarship from around the world.

The 8th conference, held in Vienna on the 16th and 17th of August, 2003, was no exception, with contributions to syntax in the areas of grammar engineering (Clément and Kinyon), coordination and linearization (Crysmann), countercyclic adjunction (Gärtner and Michaelis), selectional restrictions by modifiers (Soehn and Sailer), and complex prepositions (Trawiński), and to formal methods in the areas of learnability (Béchet; Dudau-Sofronie, Tellier, and Tommasi), statistical parsing (Chiang), formal meaning representation (Dikovskiy), finite model theory (Kepser and Mönnich), and formal language theory (Yli-Jyrä).

The newly appointed organizing committee for Formal Grammar asked the attendees of the 7th conference (Trento) for feedback on improvements they should make to the series, and there was a unanimous consensus that the proceedings of the conference should be published. On behalf of the other organizers, I am therefore very proud to present these proceedings of the 8th conference under the impressum of CSLI Publications, in the hope that this will be the first of many Formal Grammar conferences to offer them.

Acknowledgments

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