

## Introduction

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This volume is made up of developments of selected papers from the FRLSU conference held in late August 2018, at the end of the hottest summer Scotland has had since recordings first began. It was held in the Grosvenor Hotel at the heart of the West End of Glasgow, overlooking the Botanic Gardens, which brought welcome respite in the hot weather. It was largely organised by Joanna Kopaczyk, ably helped during the conference by a group of colleagues and students from English Language & Linguistics at the University of Glasgow.

Unlike earlier FRLSU triennial conferences, the Glasgow meeting had a theme: *Language on the move*. This theme was purposefully interpreted in as open a manner as possible, although it was fascinating to see how well the great majority of papers articulated with the concept (even if this was not entirely intentional). It was heartening to see both the number and diversity – in terms of geographical background, subject and career stage – of those who took part or attended.

In this volume, the papers developed from their spoken originals reflect this theme, again interpreted inclusively. They range from a discussion of migration to the Atlantic Archipelago in prehistoric times, through the use of Dutch in the late medieval and early modern burgh records of Aberdeen, to changes in status for Sign Language in Scotland. We believe that it provides a unique insight into the life and times of language in Scotland and Ulster.

This volume was seen through a large part of the editorial process by Joanna Kopaczyk. Additional copy-editing was carried out by Robert McColl Millar. Beyond the editors, the following colleagues aided us with opinions on the submitted papers: Rhona Alcorn, Becca Gregory, Michael Hance, Pavel Iosad, Helen Koulibrodova, Colm Ó Baoill, Peadar Ó Muircheardaich, Nicola Royan, Clive Upton, Tomasz Wicherkiewicz. We are very grateful for their time and commitment.

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The FRLSU traditionally has a major conference every three years. Our next conference should, therefore, be in 2021. With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it is unlikely that the conference will take place then. It *will* happen, however. We look forward to seeing old friends and meeting new friends then.

During the conference, Robert McColl Millar stood down as Chair of FRLSU, a post he had held since 2009. Largely because of ongoing health issues for Millar, in the period from late 2017 until the conference, however, much of the day-to-day running of the organisation fell to Joanna Kopaczyk. It was only right that she was chosen by acclamation to be the new Chair. Millar remains the Series Editor for the Publications of the FRLSU series.

In the year of the conference, our dear friend Iseabail Macleod died. Iseabail was a stalwart of the FRLSU since its inception, being a member of its committee for practically all that time. Her common sense and humour are much missed. In the year after the conference, our dear friend Michael Montgomery also died. Michael was President of the FRLSU for many years, bringing a much-appreciated international aspect to our work. Despite his increasing frailty, Michael maintained close ties with the organisation. Indeed, the last time many people in Europe saw him was at this conference, when he beamed in by Skype to answer questions on his paper (which was read by Robert McColl Millar).

These proceedings are dedicated to their memories, with respect and affection.