

Guide for Session Leaders

Session Participants

- **Session Leaders:** person/people providing material to discuss, facilitating discussion
- Session Organizer: person/people facilitating the creation of the session; session organizer contacts mailing list with topic, schedule, and other logistical information
- Discussants: everyone available to participate in the session

Goal for sessions generally: have a solid discussion of a topic relevant to language, languages, uses of language(s), etc.

- About topic you already know a lot about (e.g., already published/presented, wanted to explore in more detail)
- About something you're still investigating (e.g., between data and publication/presentation)
- About data that needs some direction or organization (e.g., a set of data in which patterns have not yet emerged or for which patterns might lend themselves to multiple possible explanations or theoretical approaches)

How to guide the sessions

- At least two weeks in advance: determine date/time/duration for your session.
 - Schedule is entirely up to you
 - Keeping in mind that we have society members from around the world, so time zones might enable/prohibit participation by members from various places
- Introduce your topic, approach, data, as appropriate for your goals for the session (10-30 minutes); can include a paper, set of data, slides to support your introduction, as you wish.
- Include some discussion possibilities: questions/comments/areas of exploration, in written or spoken form, as you wish.
- Guide the discussion as much as you think would be useful to you.

- Strictly focused the topic and possible inquiries as introduced
- Exploring related material or topics as they arise
- Taking the rabbit trails as far as they go...
- Leave discussion open as long as you like, for a session that is 30-60 minutes total
 - Longer if people are available and interested
 - Shorter if we reach consensus sooner than expected

Session organizer can do more if the session leader would like

- Introduce speaker (some of us having a hard time singing our own praises)
- Moderate discussion, including supporting speaker should discussion take a hostile turn (let's not go there)
- Stipulate terms of the session as determined by session leader, if session leader would prefer that organizer do so (can be pragmatically odd for topic and terms to come from same person)