

# The Biennial of Czech Linguistics

held under the auspices of Jazykovědné sdružení České republiky

Dear colleagues,

it is our pleasure to present to you the concept of the *Biennial of Czech Linguistics* – a new broad platform for regular meetings of linguists working in Czechia as well as linguists from abroad who have ties to Czech linguistics. The concept came to being in 2022 in collaboration with the Board of Jazykovědné sdružení České republiky (the Linguistic Association of the Czech Republic). We have also received useful feedback from a broader linguistic community active in Czechia or abroad, via a questionnaire distributed in summer 2022.

The authors of the concept  
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## Motivation

We believe that the Czech linguistic community lacks a platform for meeting regularly. Therefore, we propose to organize a biennial conference, which primarily targets linguists working in Czechia, but also welcomes any interested participants from abroad. Our hope is that the conference will contribute to the awareness about linguistic work done in Czechia, to the establishment and strengthening of collaborative ties, and to the popularization of linguistics as a scientific field.

## Concept

The *Biennial of Czech Linguistics* will be a conference on linguistics in the broadest sense of the word – open to general linguists as well as linguists specialized in particular languages or language families, to all subdisciplines (from phonetics, lexicology or syntax, to stylistics, text or discourse analysis), interdisciplinary approaches (psycholinguistics, sociolinguistics, computational linguistics, applied linguistics, language didactics, etc.), methodological approaches (linguistic typology, corpus linguistics, experimental linguistics, etc.), as well as different theoretical and descriptive paradigms (functional generative description, construction grammar, generative grammar, etc.). The Biennial is open to linguists of all generations and at all carrier stages – from doctoral or other advanced students to professors. The only criterion is scientific quality.

The *Biennial* will feature several invited keynote speakers (from Czechia and from abroad) and a thematically unrestricted poster session, but the core of the conference will be thematic workshops organized by linguists from any academic or scientific institution in Czechia (without the need to be a member of Jazykovědné sdružení ČR). In this respect we follow the model successfully applied at the European level (Annual Meetings of the Societas Linguistica Europaea) or in Germany (Jahrestagungen der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft). The advantages of this model include the division of the conference into thematic areas of current interest (while keeping all the workshops open to all participants), an easier access to

the relevant sub-communities (including participants from abroad and those who would otherwise not think about attending the conference), and, finally, the fact that the burden of organizing a big event of this sort is distributed among the local organizers (taking care of the infrastructure and keynote speakers) and workshop organizers (who are responsible for the program of their workshops).

## Thematic workshops

Those interested in organizing a workshop at the *Biennial* will send a proposal by the deadline determined by the local organizers (about a year before the conference). The program committee, composed of the local organizers and a few other members, including those nominated by the Board of Jazykovědné sdružení ČR, will decide – based on expert evaluations – about the inclusion of the proposed workshop in the program of the *Biennial*.

The workshop proposal will include the title of the workshop, a concise description, an estimated number of participants, as well as any potential participants who have been approached by the proponents. The costs for any potential invited participants (of whom there will be a limited number) will be covered by the workshop convenors.

Workshop presentations will be selected on the basis of a standard abstract review process, in which some reviews will be in the competence of the workshop convenors and others in the competence of the central organizers / program committee.

The workshops will run in parallel, i.e., according to a centrally provided schedule, so that the conference participants can easily switch workshops between the talks. There will be no workshop program during the poster session and the keynote lectures.

## Publication outcomes

Any potential publications (proceedings, special issues of journals) will be associated with the individual workshops, not the conference as a whole. They will thus be in the competence of the workshop convenors or participants. Due to the thematic breadth of the conference, we find this to be a better model than attempting to publish conference-wide proceedings). The primary goal of the *Biennial* is, therefore, networking and establishing new collaborations.

## Popularization

The *Biennial* will feature a discussion panel open to the media and public. The panel may focus on a relevant applied or scientific topic.

## Venue

The *Biennial* is planned as a moving event. The first year will be held in 2024 at Charles University (Faculty of Arts) in Prague. Upcoming editions should take place at other academic or scientific institutions across Czechia.

## Languages of the conference

The languages of the conference will be English, Czech, and Slovak.

## Conference fee

The cost of participation will be determined by the local organizers.

## Relation to existing conferences

We are well aware that the planned *Biennial of Czech Linguistics* will not be the only regular conference taking place in Czechia. In what follows we briefly consider the relation of the *Biennial* to existing conferences.

### Olomouc Linguistics Colloquium (*Olinco*)

*Olinco* is a standard linguistic conference with an international scope. As such it could in principle be held in any other country than Czechia. Despite its primarily international character, *Olinco* is currently the largest regular Czech linguistic conference, which attracts the attention of a significant portion of the Czech linguistic community. Therefore, we consider it appropriate that *Olinco* and the *Biennial of Czech Linguistics* take place in different calendar years. The next edition of the biennial *Olinco* is planned for June 2023, which makes it possible for the *Biennial* to take place in 2024.

### International Meeting of Young Linguists

The *International Meeting of Young Linguists* is a regular conference, likewise held under the auspices of Jazykovědné sdružení ČR. Nevertheless, the conference always takes place in Olomouc and specifically targets young linguists. The planned *Biennial*, on the other hand, is open to linguists of all generations, which we consider essential, and is planned to be a moving event.

### Linguistics Prague

*Linguistics Prague* is an international conference mainly targeted at young linguists. Its language is only English and it is always held in Prague, in which respects it is different from the *Biennial*.