

Introduction

This is indeed a very special issue of Croatian Journal of Philosophy. I have the (sad) honor to be the guest editor of this issue that serves both as a proceedings issue to the Philosophy of Language and Linguistics conference and as an In memoriam issue to our beloved Dunja Jutronić who sadly passed away this summer. There are three in memoriam pieces for Dunja—by Boran Berčić, Barry Smith, and Mirela Fus-Holmedal—each offering a personal account of who she was to them and reflecting the powerful friendships formed over the years. We thank them for their heartfelt celebrations of Dunja.

It is only fitting that I also dedicate a few words to Dunja. To begin, I want to say that it was a tremendous honor when Dunja invited me to serve as guest editor for this issue of Croatian Journal of Philosophy during the 2024 Philosophy of Language and Linguistics conference. That honor now carries a note of sorrow, as Dunja is no longer with us.

When I think about Dunja, there are three words that come to my mind: force of nature. And she truly was; taking care of her three little daughters during war times in Zadar while simultaneously building a flourishing career in both linguistics and philosophy, and, on top of that, being a sports enthusiast, running, and swimming in marathons at the age of 80. But, to me, she was more than that. First, she was my professor who taught me Old English and Chaucer. Later, she became a colleague—reintroduced to me by my mentor, Nenad Mišćević—and the three of us used to spend time together at conferences. Finally, she was my friend. I will always remember her as being very encouraging, helpful and insightful. I am sorry that our time was cut short just when we started to spend more time together. But, I am grateful for the time we did have and that I had the chance to know her and to learn from her, academically and in life.

She truly will remain to be an inspiration.

To continue with Dunja's legacy, I will present the papers in this issue.

*The first part of the issue is devoted to the discussions of Una Stojnić and Ernie Lepore's book *Inflammatory Language* (OUP 2025), held at the 2024 Philosophy of Language and Linguistics conference. We didn't know it at the time, but it would be the last one Dunja attended. Stojnić and Lepore give a valuable precis of their book where they investigate slurs – words that derogate individuals solely on the basis of their group*

membership (race, gender, religion, etc.). The authors challenge common accounts of slurs and offer their own: they argue the offensive sting slurs carry arises primarily from associations triggered by the word's articulatory form (its sound or spelling). These open-ended associations carry socially entrenched histories of bigotry and exclusion, which are reactivated whenever the slur is uttered, even in pure resemblance cases. Their account, they claim, explains a whole arena of slurs' puzzles.

Robin Jeshion challenges Stojić and Lepore's account by claiming that Inflammatory Language overlooks Multiple Mechanism theories, which are more than capable to explain hyperprojectivity. The other half of her paper addresses the Specificity Problem and claims that her own previously developed theory, Identity Expressivism, is equipped to tackle this issue. Christopher Hom's paper defends a content-based view against common criticisms of slur theories, showing it can adequately respond to each challenge. It examines Stojnić and Lepore's Articulation Account, arguing that the theory is both under-specified and overly ambitious, bringing forth certain dilemmas and challenges for their account. Louise Antony defends a lexical account of slurs, showing it better explains why slurs offend, their acquisition, mishearing, evolution, and reclamation, compared with the Articulation Account. Matthew Stone critically examines Stojnić and Lepore's claim that articulations are central to slur analysis, acknowledging their role in linguistic intuitions and social effects, but argues that slurs are best understood through a combination of prohibitions, word-level associations, and conceptual connections.

The second part of this issue consists of papers presented at the 2023 Philosophy of Language and Linguistics conference. Adam Michael Sennet and Tyrus Fisher challenge von Stechow's semantics of subjunctive conditionals, showing that a Lewisian approach with pragmatic considerations better accounts for reverse Sobel sequences and NPI licensing. Indrek Reiland's paper was presented as part of the Special session on Elmar Unnsteinsson's book, *Talking about: An Intentionalist Theory of Reference* (OUP 2022). In the paper, Reiland critically examines Unnsteinsson's Collapse Argument, showing that Easy views of saying or expressing do not collapse into Gricean views, because the intentions required for rationalizing an act are distinct from those that constitute saying or expressing. Alex Radulescu examines Unnsteinsson's claim that both combinatory and separatory confusion impair reference, arguing that separatory confusion—thinking one person is two—does not necessarily corrupt our ability to refer. Mirela Fus-Holmedal investigates how linguistic plausible deniability facilitates politically manipulative speech through dogwhistles, racial figleaves, and generic stereotypes. The paper shows that plausible deniability both shields such speech from criticism and allows it to spread more efficiently, increasing its impact. It further highlights the ethical and political significance of language, arguing that we should both combat pernicious manipulation

*and consider ways to harness plausible deniability for positive purposes,
thereby bringing normative concerns into the philosophy of language.*

Dunja, you will be missed!

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Dunja Jutrović (1943–2025)