

## EDITOR'S NOTE

The current issue inaugurates an increase in frequency for *Language in Society*, which will now appear five times a year. We will be able to publish more papers, and thus be able to reduce the amount of time that authors must wait to see their accepted papers in print. This time lag has recently been a year from acceptance (and has threatened to be as long as 18 months) and was difficult to reduce within the four-issue per year constraint given the high quality of our submissions. The new schedule will help cut the time from acceptance to appearance in a printed issue. It will also permit me to continue to be flexible about the length of papers, and will allow more flexibility to consider proposals for special issues.

Another innovation – incremental online publication – is being introduced to the journal in 2002 by our publisher, Cambridge University Press. As articles are accepted they are copyedited and after the authors have corrected the typeset proofs, Cambridge will mount them on the Cambridge Journals Online service ([journals.cambridge.org](http://journals.cambridge.org)). While access to the full text online is currently limited to library and institutional subscribers, anyone can access the titles and abstracts at the site. This will mean that articles will be publicly available on the web within a couple of months of acceptance and before they appear in a printed issue.

These changes will encourage us to speed up the time between submission and acceptance, which now varies from three months (when all the stars are correctly aligned) to as much as seven or eight (when everything goes wrong). With a year's backlog of accepted papers, I had been less than severe with late referees and sometimes rather easy on myself, but a reduced backlog will require a faster refereeing process.

All of these advantages will, I hope, encourage colleagues around the world to submit their best work to *Language in Society* (To parody the familiar flight-attendant line: "We know that you have a choice, and we appreciate you publishing with us").

The new schedule of five issues a year does put considerable pressure on all of us in at least one area – book reviews. Surveys of journal readers often find that book reviews are their favorite reading, and reviews are certainly very important for authors and publishers. However, in order to have them to read, we must write them! Five issues a year leaves room for plenty of reviews, and I do not have a large backlog of these. If you are one of the unfortunately large number of people who owes *Language in Society* a long overdue book review, let me announce a general amnesty – if you complete and send in your review in the next few months, all will be forgiven (at least if the book you have been neglecting is not more than three years old; anything older than that probably requires some negotiation).

If you would like to write reviews, let me know what kind of books you'd be interested in reviewing. If you want to recommend that a particular book be reviewed, please let me know about it. This would be especially useful for pub-

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lications in languages other than English. For instance, in this issue Margarita Hidalgo reviews an important book by Germán de Granda of the Universidad de Valladolid that would not have come to the attention of this editor without Professor Hidalgo's intercession. (Actually there is another airline story here – my husband, Kenneth Hill, was bringing this very book from Spain to a colleague here at the University of Arizona, as a gift from Professor de Granda, when his suitcase was stolen from the customs area at O'Hare airport. If it hadn't been for this unhappy turn of events, I would have seen it.) This invitation extends certainly to students in graduate (= post-graduate) study – reviews in this issue by Leela Tanikella and José Makropoulos are examples of the quality of work that this cohort of colleagues can do, and more would be most welcome.