

I*f*I

Information *for* Interlinguists

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CONTENTS

Events 3

Message from UEA on United Nations Day	3
12 th Global RCE Conference	3
Symposium on Esperanto archives	3
5 th UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries	4
75 th session of the IKU in Montreal	4
Esperanto in Universities	4
ILEI reports	5
Postgraduate studies in interlinguistics	6
Linguistics of Esperanto and constructed languages	6

General news 7

Questionnaire for ILEI, ESF and CED	7
Ex-president of UEA receives a state prize in India	7
Mauro la Torre Award	8
Language Policy Mailing List	9
Melodies to <i>La Espero</i>	9
Progress for TEJO at the UN	9
Esperanto por UN	10
Global Voices	10
UNESCO Courier	10

Books and articles 11

Planned languages: From concept to reality	11
“How can we profit from English-language higher education?”	11
IKU book 2021	11
Literary cosmopolitanism in the English fin de siècle: Citizens of nowhere	11
“Constructed languages”	12
“Why I am a scientist who is not proud of science”	12
“A language without a nation”	12
“Nationalized cosmopolitanism with communist characteristics: The Esperanto movement’s survival strategy in post-WWII Bulgaria”	12
“Esperanto, China’s surprisingly prominent linguistic subculture, is slowly dying out”	12
“After the national battles of the First World War came the opportunity to further peace and understanding via the artificial language Esperanto”	13
“Tense and aspect in Esperanto verb markers”	13
“Future participles in the writings of Zamenhof”	13
“Words for berries in artificial languages”	13
Contested Languages in the Old World	14
“Knowledge and language in classical Indian linguistics: some observations”	14
“TEKA: An transnational network of Esperanto-speaking physicians”	14
<i>IPR</i> index prepared	14
“Esperanto as a way of stimulating interest in one’s native language and learning a foreign language more effectively”	15
“Why was the discovery of the jet stream mostly ignored? Maybe because it was published in Esperanto”	15
“Dangerously convenient: suppressing Esperanto and the Latin script in China and Japan during the 1920s and 1930s”	15
“Esperanto: language and community in the 21 st century”	15
<i>ESF Connected</i> : Recent blog posts	16

ESF grants 17

EVENTS

Message from UEA on United Nations Day

<https://uea.org/gk/990>

On 24 October 2021, we celebrated 76 years of the United Nations, the widest-ranging international organisation, the most ambitious advance for international diplomacy and nowadays the most important institution for discovering and promoting global solutions to global problems.

Current challenges, from climate change to gender inequality, from conflict to hunger, from compulsory migration to unfair discrimination, from COVID-19 to unsanitary living conditions, from misinformation to poverty, show that the world needs much more multilateralism and cooperation. And for that purpose we must build the UN that the peoples of the world require.

(Read the rest of the message at the address above.)



12th Global RCE Conference

(virtual) 16 to 18 November 2021

<https://www.rcenetwork.org/portal/12th-global-rce-conference-%E2%80%93-call-submissions>

The theme will be education for sustainable development: “Achieving the Sustainable Development Goals: action through learning in a time of global crises”. The conference will be hosted by RCE Scotland and the Global RCE Service Centre (RCE = regional centres of expertise), with the support of the Ministry of the Environment, Japan.

Symposium on Esperanto archives

<https://esperparadigma1.sciencescall.org/resource/page/id/28>

On 8 September this symposium in Berlin was the concluding session of a seminar on historical access to language practices in a transnational context. The programme can be found at the address above.

The symposium was held in English and Esperanto, with no translation.

5th UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries

At the start of 2022 the Fifth UN Conference on the Least Developed Countries will take place in Doha, Qatar, the so-called Doha 5 Conference.

UEA has had the opportunity to formally intervene in a recent Civil Society Consultation in preparation for this conference. Our representative Prof. Francis Hult has drawn attention to a recent report by the World Bank that has finally recognised the importance of teaching in children's native languages – a principle long accepted by UNESCO but largely unrecognised by other bodies. This is therefore a significant step forward that connects with UEA's activity to support first-language teaching and to contribute to the work of UNESCO.

Information supplied by Humphrey Tonkin.

75th session of the IKU in Montreal

amri (at) huji.ac.il
<https://uea.org/gk/983>
<https://uea.org/kongresoj/universitato>

The 107th World Congress in Montreal will incorporate the 75th session of the International Congress University (IKU). UEA invites proposals for IKU lectures. These should be sent to the IKU secretary (Amri Wandel at the above email address) by 31 January 2022.

Esperanto in Universities

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLfebd4xxn3CMqTrpXMay2YVfrhDYT-Vm5>
<https://www.espero.ir/eo/category/kunpensigado/>

In the last six months, the Esperanto in Universities working group of ILEI, UEA, TEJO and ESF has been busy with the routine tasks of locating and contacting Esperanto-speaking university members who are not already in contact with the movement, and supporting their activity in various ways. In addition it held regular video meetings to promote projects in this field. Over the last six months, it has:

- ◆ arranged, during the ILEI congress, the symposium on “Esperanto in university environments – present and future” between Esperantist and non-Esperantist university members;
- ◆ raised funds to launch an Esperanto course at Université Espoir in DR Congo;
- ◆ surveyed Esperantist and non-Esperantist university members as to the possible role of Esperanto in university courses;
- ◆ set up the online University of Esperanto;
- ◆ arranged webinars in Iranian universities with lecturers from abroad in Esperanto and organised subsequent Esperanto courses;

◆ supported the interlinguistic course at the university in Poznań.

Complete recordings of previous sessions are available to watch on UEA's YouTube channel and on IrEA's website, at the addresses below the title of this article.

To contact the working group, please write to [esperanto.en.universitatoj \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:esperanto.en.universitatoj@gmail.com).

ILEI reports

Congress 2021

Despite the difficult circumstances, the 54th ILEI congress was a great success in the form of the VEKI-2 webinar. ILEI's 2nd Virtual Esperanto Congress was held between 7 and 14 August 2021. There were 156 participants from 42 countries. Benin, which was to have hosted the physical congress, remained in focus both during the National Evening and as a consequence of some interesting lectures by African professors. The theme of the congress was "Esperanto culture in Esperanto courses".

Congress 2022

Preparations are already underway for the ILEI congress next year. The 55th congress will take place in Quebec City, Canada. The congress will run from 30 July until 6 August 2022. The theme – warmly supported by fellow Esperantists in Quebec as a good reflection of the local situation – will be "The teaching of Esperanto in bilingual and multilingual education". The Local Congress Committee hopes the topic will also attract non-Esperantists and be of interest to journalists and others. The symposium's theme could be the rather more specialised "Translation in teaching" if there is sufficient interest.

Congress 2023

The 2023 congress will be held in Massa, Italy, home of the National Esperanto Library, of particular importance in the history of ILEI. The president of the Local Congress Committee will be Bruĉjo Casini, who has located a very suitable and inexpensive venue. The dates will be 22–29 July 2023, right before the World Congress in Turin. The theme will be "Teaching Esperanto in schools". The congress already has its own website. It is also especially important for ILEI that the congress is associated with the "30 Golden Hours" project to teach Esperanto in the schools of the Italian region of Tuscany. It aims to raise the metalinguistic skills of students in Italian secondary schools, mainly to try to improve test results concerning the Italian language. The potential of the experiment has raised interest from local school authorities.

Postgraduate studies in interlinguistics

Ilona Koutny

http://interl.home.amu.edu.pl/interlingvistiko/raporto_sep21.html

For the eighth time, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland has commenced its postgraduate courses in interlinguistics, with the 3-year aim of forming professional Esperantologists, interlinguists and teachers...

The present group is extraordinary for its size and range of nationalities: 41 people from 21 countries (9 outside Europe: Brasil, Chile, China, Indonesia, Iran, Korea, Cuba, Pakistan, Vietnam). Read a full report at the address above.

Linguistics of Esperanto and constructed languages

<http://www.masterlinguistiquetours.com>

The seminar “Linguistique de l’espéranto et des langues construites” of *Master 2* (i.e. the fifth year of study in the French university system) has kept Philippe Planchon busy since 2018. It is a compulsory seminar within the framework of the final year of the *Master de Linguistique Avancée et Description des Langues* diploma (LADL).

The diploma is supported by the Loire Linguistics Laboratory (LLL, UMR 7270, CNRS, Université de Tours, Université d’Orléans, BnF). The seminar takes place during the first period of study, between September and December.

Instructor: Philippe Planchon, Associate Professor, University of Tours, France, Faculty of Literature and Languages, Department of Language Sciences, LLL (UMR 7270).

GENERAL NEWS

Questionnaire for ILEI, ESF and CED

<https://esfacademic.org/eo/demandaro/>

To help us obtain as complete a picture as possible of Esperanto and interlinguistics in universities, we would kindly request that you please take a few minutes to fill in our questionnaire. This can be done anonymously.

We are also interested in the opinions of non-Esperanto-speaking colleagues. Please invite colleagues who do not understand Esperanto to fill out one of the national-language questionnaires; they can choose any language, not necessarily their native one.

Ex-president of UEA receives a state prize in India

<https://uea.org/gk/987>

This year the Vidyasagar Prize has for the first time been awarded to an Esperantist. The prize, which relates to the complete works of those who win it, was launched by the state government of West Bengal, India in 1980 to honour the memory of Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar (1820–1891), a great scholar, educator, founder of institutions and pioneer of social reforms. In 2021 it was renamed the Vidyasagar-Dinamoyee Prize (to additionally honour his wife) and is now awarded by the government department for higher education in collaboration with the newly established Vidyasagar Academy.



On 26 September 2021, the 201st anniversary of Vidyasagar's birth, the Esperanto-speaking linguist Probal Dasgupta and three other award-winners (in other social and educational fields affected by Vidyasagar's pioneering efforts) received the Prize. This took place on the premises of the Vidyasagar Academy in Kolkata, a house in which the scholar himself lived in the final years of his life.

Probal Dasgupta, after studying in Kolkata's Sanskrit College, Pune's Deccan College and New York University, taught linguistics at the University of Calcutta, Deccan College, the University of Hyderabad and the Indian Statistical Institute in Kolkata; he retired from this final post in 2018. He helped teach Esperanto with David Jordan in 1978 at the San Francisco summer course that eventually became NASK, and with Marjorie Boulton in 1988 at the summer courses at Barlaston.

His publications in linguistics include *The Otherness of English: India's Auntie Tongue Syndrome* (1993), *Explorations in Indian Sociolinguistics* (with Jayant Lele and Rajendra Singh, 1995), *After Etymology: Towards a Substantivist Linguistics* (with Alan Ford and Rajendra Singh, 2000), *Inhabiting Human Languages: The Substantivist Visualization* (2012), *Kathaar Kriyaakarma* (Bengali: "The actions of words", 1987), *Chinna Kathaay Saajaaye Tarani* ("On a boat decorated with broken words", 2011), *Bhaashaar Bindubisarga* ("The cedillas and circumflexes of human language", 2012) and *Merur Praarthanaa: Bishuber Uttar* ("The poles pray: the equator answers", 2015).

His publications in Esperanto include *Primico* (a translation of poems by Rabindranath Tagore, 1977), *Mi juna* (a translation of an autobiography by Manashi Dasgupta, 1989), *Klera edzino* (a translation of a novel by Upendronath Ganggopaddhae, 1994), *Dormanta hejmaro* (a translation of a novel by Manashi Dasgupta, 2006) and *Loĝi en homaj lingvoj: la substancisma perspektivo* (2011). Assisted by bridge translations in Esperanto he produced Bengali versions of the Croatian children's novel *The Brave Adventures of Lapitch* by Ivana Brlić-Mažuranić (2006), the Swedish play *Nemesis* by Alfred Nobel (2014) and the Finnish novel *The Seven Brothers* by Aleksis Kivi (2020).

Dasgupta has been an honorary member of the Linguistic Society of America since 2004. The Indian council of philosophical research named him its visiting professor of the year for 2009. In 2012 he was awarded the Archana Chaudhuri Prize by Bangiya Sahitya Parishat, the Bengali literary academy. In 2006 he was president of the International Examination Commission (for the ILEI-UEA exams). From 2007 to 2013 he was President of UEA. From 2016 to 2022 he has been the president of the Academy of Esperanto.

ESF sends its whole-hearted congratulations to Probal, who is a member of its advisory board.

Mauro la Torre Award

<https://uea.org/gk/985>

Renato Corsetti: <http://esperanto.cri.cn/e-club/enjoyreading/4204/20210928/704814.html>

On the ILEI website: https://www.ilei.info/novajxoj/PREMIO_MAURO_LA_TORRE.php

The International League of Esperanto-Speaking Teachers (ILEI), in cooperation with the La Torre family, announces a research competition in one of the fields in which the late president of ILEI, Professor Mauro La Torre (1946–2010), worked. In 2011 the ILEI Committee elected Professor La Torre an honorary member of ILEI.

The research fields are:

- ◆ Applications of language technology to Esperanto leading to dictionaries or more general linguistic treatments
- ◆ Intercultural education through Esperanto
- ◆ Teaching of Esperanto and tools for teaching Esperanto

- ◆ Advanced courses for teachers of Esperanto
- ◆ Online courses for Esperanto
- ◆ Diachronic and synchronic evolution of Esperanto's vocabulary

Candidates should announce their intention to participate and their chosen subject by 1 January 2022.

The prize consists of the sum of 500 euros. For more information about the award, please see the interview with Renato Corsetti on the Chinese Radio International website, or read more on the ILEI site. Links to both can be found above.

Language Policy Mailing List

<https://clpp.umbc.edu/>
<https://lists.mail.umbc.edu/mailman/listinfo/lgpolicy>

Our colleague Francis Hult, professor at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County (UMBC) and a member of the group managing relations with the United Nations on behalf of UEA, is now in charge of the *Language Policy List*, an English-language email service aimed at specialists in language policy. It is free to subscribe at the second address above. The other address is that of UMBC's Consortium for Language Policy and Planning, where the list is hosted.

Melodies to *La Espero*

Timothy Boronczyk
https://bulteno.esperanto-usa.org/a/2021/03/la_espero/eo

I am currently working to collect and preserve various melodies written for the Esperantist anthem *La Espero* aside from that written by Félicien de Ménéil. To date I have collected over 20 different versions written between 1891 and 2020. A brief introduction to the project and a list of versions I have collected is available in *Usona Esperantisto*. I invite anyone with information or additional versions not yet collected to contact me at [tboronczyk \(at\) gmail.com](mailto:tboronczyk@gmail.com).

Progress for TEJO at the UN

<https://esango.un.org/civilsociety/showProfileDetail.do?method=showProfileDetails&tab=1&profileCode=625156>

After a great deal of effort, TEJO has gained Special Consultative Status at the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), through which non-governmental organisations have representation in UN bodies.

Esperanto por UN

<https://esperantoporun.org/eo/arkivoj/>

The most recent issues of the *Newsletter of the Universal Esperanto Association's Office of Liaison with the United Nations* are available in English, Esperanto and French from the above address.

Global Voices

<https://eo.globalvoices.org/>

We draw your attention to the existence of this international and multilingual community of bloggers, journalists, translators, academicians and activists for human rights. “We gather, check and translate news and stories from blogs, independent channels of communication and social media in 167 countries, stories that you can't easily find on the Internet.”

UNESCO Courier

https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000377986_epo

Read the latest issue of *The UNESCO Courier* in Esperanto!

BOOKS AND ARTICLES

Planned languages: From concept to reality

<http://d-nb.info/1239423241/34>

edited by Klaus Schubert

This collection of ten articles, first published in 2000 and 2001 as special issues of the journal of the Association Belge de Linguistique Appliquée and later republished in book form by the Brussels Hogeschool voor Wetenschap en Kunst, is now freely available on the web.

The book has also been uploaded to the German National Library, which means it can now be found and downloaded via international library catalogues.

“How can we profit from English-language higher education?”

<https://neerlandistiek.nl/2021/10/hoe-we-meer-kunnen-halen-uit-engelstalig-onderwijs/>

<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0346251X21001937>

Prof. Marc van Oostendorp has written an interesting article in Dutch in the online journal *Neerlandistiek*: “The more languages you have in a lecture hall, the greater is the chance that everyone will end up speaking English. Using a native language is easier if everyone speaks English.”

IKU book 2021

<http://iku2.trovu.com/>

The book of the International Congress University held during this year’s UEA Virtual Congress is freely available from the address above. With 134 pages, the texts of 14 lectures and many illustrations, it is one of the most excellent and varied scientific texts in Esperanto.

Literary cosmopolitanism in the English fin de siècle: Citizens of nowhere

Stefano Evangelista

<https://global.oup.com/academic/product/9780198864240>

This new book, published in July, presents English literature in a European and global context, with various historical and archival material. It offers a new viewpoint on the literature of the end of the 19th century.

“Constructed languages”

Christine Schreyer

<https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-anthro-101819-110152>

This general introduction appears in the latest issue of *Annual Review of Anthropology*.

“Why I am a scientist who is not proud of science”

<https://personal.us.es/vmanzano/publicaciones.htm>

IF-Sofia, a Brazilian journal of philosophy, science and technology has recently published this article in Esperanto. A Spanish translation is available at the same location.

“Science is often presented as the most advanced body of knowledge, governed only by reason and in the hands of special people, scientists, despite the existence of an extensive collection of criticisms related to this naive description. This text does not pretend to theorize more about the usual description or the accumulated criticisms, but rather to share the personal experiences of the author, accumulated over some decades of scientific work.”

“A language without a nation”

<https://www.lingoblog.dk/et-sprog-uden-land/>
<https://www.lingoblog.dk/en/a-language-without-a-nation/>

This is a nice article about Esperanto by an Esperanto-speaking university member in Denmark.

“Nationalized cosmopolitanism with communist characteristics: The Esperanto movement’s survival strategy in post-WWII Bulgaria”

Ana Velitchkova

<https://www.academia.edu/49575204/>

“The case of the Bulgarian Esperanto movement under state socialism demonstrates a social movement can survive under authoritarianism by establishing a legitimate activist culture acceptable to the regime while pursuing its intrinsic goals.”

“Esperanto, China’s surprisingly prominent linguistic subculture, is slowly dying out”

<https://radiichina.com/esperanto-subculture/>

This article, published in June, discusses the history and future of Esperanto in China.

“After the national battles of the First World War came the opportunity to further peace and understanding via the artificial language Esperanto”

Florian Coulmas

<https://www.nzz.ch/feuilleton/ld.1632650>
https://eo.wikipedia.org/wiki/Florian_Coulmas

Lu Wunsch-Rolshoven tells us that the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung* has published an article in German about the efforts of (among others) Nitobe Inazō at the League of Nations around 1923. The article’s author is Florian Coulmas, a Japanologist and sociolinguist who has also written *Guardians of Language: Twenty voices through history*, soon to appear in an Esperanto translation.

“Tense and aspect in Esperanto verb markers”

http://memoires.scd.univ-tours.fr/index.php?fichier=Linguistique/Master2/2019LING_M2_Cotinet_Agathe.pdf

In 2019, to complete her diploma, student Agathe Cotinet worked on a study of tense and aspect in Esperanto under the guidance of Philippe Planchon, Associate Professor at University of Tours, France. She did some very interesting work on the subject: her thesis extends to roughly 160 pages. Her defence of it was so successful that the examiners decided that her work should be accessible to readers. It is therefore freely downloadable (in French) from the website of la University Library of Tours.

“Future participles in the writings of Zamenhof”

Natalia Dankova

<http://interlingvistiko.net/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/6-Dankova.-Future-participles-in-the-writings-of-Zamenhof.pdf>

This article which originally appeared in issue 7 (2015) of the journal *Esperantologio / Esperanto Studies*, is now available to download.

“Words for berries in artificial languages”

Alan Reed Libert

<https://www.academia.edu/53692145/>

This short article explores the ways in which berries are named in various types of planned language.

Contested Languages in the Old World

<https://webcolleges.uva.nl/Mediasite/Play/f44c2ae7a923447d8373e54f5ea542021d>

Herman Dekeūnink has let us know about an online video of lectures at the CLOW3 conference on contested languages held in Amsterdam in May 2018. At 1h48 in the film, Sabine Fiedler explains how Esperanto counts as such a language.

This is related to the book *Contested Languages: the hidden multilingualism of Europe* that we reported on in *IFI* 114 (pp. 17–19).

“Knowledge and language in classical Indian linguistics: some observations”

Probal Dasgupta

<https://probaleo.wordpress.com/tag/article/>

This article, written for the book *Forms of Knowledge in India: Critical Revaluations* (Delhi, 2008, ed. Raval, Mehta, Yashaschandra), was recently posted online by its author.

“TEKA: An transnational network of Esperanto-speaking physicians”

Marcel Koschek

https://hunghist.org/images/Koschek_doi.pdf

This article on the history of Tutmonda Esperanta Kuracista Asocio appeared in a recent issue of *Hungarian Historical Review*.

IPR index prepared

https://www.ilei.info/ipr/malnovaj_numeroj.htm

The official periodical of ILEI, *International Pedagogical Review*, has published five-yearly indexes of the review’s content for about thirty years. It has now prepared a 15-year summary.

In the archive you can find PDF versions of *IPR* from issue 2004/4 to 2020/4. In the case of the years from 1995 to 2004 you can either read a portion of the articles or find the table of contents at the address above.

“Esperanto as a way of stimulating interest in one’s native language and learning a foreign language more effectively”

<http://esperanto.cri.cn/e-club/enjoyreading/4204/20210922/703547.html>

An interesting interview with Elisabetta Vilisics Formaggio, on the website of Chinese Radio International.

“Why was the discovery of the jet stream mostly ignored? Maybe because it was published in Esperanto”

<https://www.airspacemag.com/as-next/as-next-may-unbelievablebuttrue-180968355/>

Had Japanese meteorologist Wasaburo Ooishi not been an Esperantist, US scientists during World War II might have been more aware of a national vulnerability. Ilona Koutny notified us of the article.

“Dangerously convenient: suppressing Esperanto and the Latin script in China and Japan during the 1920s and 1930s”

Joseph Essertier

https://nitech.repo.nii.ac.jp/?action=repository_action_common_download&item_id=6767&item_no=1&attribute_id=12&file_no=1

“This paper deals ultimately with the question of language rights, specifically the rights of people in China and Japan to have access to information, to be able to participate in society through full literacy. Scholars have only just begun to write the histories of the Esperanto movement and the movement to use the Roman alphabet as an alternative script in China and Japan, and these two histories are not normally discussed together.”

“Esperanto: language and community in the 21st century”

Jorge David Brasal Arevalillo

<https://edukado.net/biblioteko/diplomlaborajhoj?iid=350>

This is newly revised anthropological research into the Esperanto community and the opinions of other people as to what Esperanto is.

It starts with Esperanto history and linguistics. It then analyses the prejudices young people have about Esperanto; why they start to learn it and why some abandon it; what the community profile of an Esperantist is like; and how the Internet and the pandemic have influenced the Esperanto community.

ESF Connected: Recent blog posts

<https://esfconnected.org/past-posts/>

- ◆ “Interlingvistikaj Studoj UAM, Poznano (Pollando)” • Ilona Koutny (9 July 2021) • <https://esfconnected.org/2021/07/09/>
- ◆ “ESF ~ mid-year” / “ESF ~ Jarneze” • Chuck Mays (19 July 2021) • <https://esfconnected.org/2021/07/19/>
- ◆ “Giuseppe Peano and ‘Latino sine Flexione’” / “Giuseppe Peano kaj ‘Latino sine Flexione’” • Basak Aray (30 July 2021) • <https://esfconnected.org/2021/07/30/>
- ◆ “PLPLE21: Workshop on Language Policy, Language Planning and Assessment in Mesoamerica and the Caribbean: Realities and Requirements” / “PLPLE21: Seminario pri Lingvopolitiko, Lingvoplanado kaj Taksado en Mezameriko kaj Karibio: Realajoj kaj Bezonoj” • Jorge Antonio Leoni de León (9 August 2021) • <https://esfconnected.org/2021/08/09/>
- ◆ “Montreal: Esperanto’s capital in 2022!” / “Montrealo: la ĉefurbo de Esperantujo en 2022!” • Yevgeniya Amis (20 September 2021) • <https://esfconnected.org/2021/09/20/>
- ◆ *Conlang Excursions* 4: “Saying a Lot with a Little” / *Planlingvaj ekskursoj* 4: “Diri multon per malmulto” • Simon Davies (4 October 2021) • <https://esfconnected.org/2021/10/04/>
- ◆ “Brian Kaneen: A Major Donor of the Esperantic Studies Foundation” / “Brian Kaneen: Grava Donacinto al Esperantic Studies Foundation” • Wally du Temple (19 October 2021) • <https://esfconnected.org/2021/10/19/>

ESF GRANTS

The Esperantic Studies Foundation has two grant programmes: the Interlinguistics Support Fund and the General Support Fund.

Interlinguistics Support Fund (ISF)

This is administered by an international panel under the auspices of the Centre for Research and Documentation on World Language Problems. It awards small grants, normally less than US\$2000, to assist scholars and advanced students in conducting research in the fields of language planning, interlinguistics, transnational language policy, linguistic justice and planned languages (including Esperanto). The grants may cover the purchase of, or access to, research materials, attendance at conferences, travel to research libraries, fieldwork support, website development, publication costs, etc. ISF grants are awarded on a competitive basis and must normally be used within a year of the award.

General Support Fund (GSF)

This covers all three of ESF's current priorities: Research, Education and Conservation. It is open to individuals and organisations, including universities. Projects must sit firmly within ESF's priority areas. Grants are awarded on a competitive basis. Although most grants are small and must normally be used within a year of the award, occasionally grants are made for longer periods and in larger amounts. Before making a request for funding, it is best to submit a brief message of inquiry to admin@esperantic.org. GSF applications are reviewed by a sub-committee of the ESF Board of Directors. GSF applications that fall within the guidelines for the ISF will be referred to the ISF committee.

Deadlines

There are three application deadlines per year, for both of the above support programmes:

- ◆ 31 January
- ◆ 30 April
- ◆ 30 September

For more information, please visit: <https://www.esperantic.org/en/grants/available>

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