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Editor's Prologue to Volume 8

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EDITOR’S PROLOGUE WELCOME TO THE 8TH VOLUME

In his “From the Editor” column in *Acoustics Today*, Popper asked the following question: “Have you ever wondered how many people actually look at and read your scholarly writings?” He answered his own question by saying, “If you have, you likely realize that no matter how ‘great’ one’s paper is, readership is (with rare exceptions) quite small.” By this, Popper was trying to encourage experts “to write something that would be seen and read by a far broader and larger audience.”¹ I’m happy to report that *Linguistic Portfolios (LP)* has achieved what Popper is calling on experts to do. The papers published in *LP* are scholarly; yet they appeal to a very large audience. Downloaders are as follows: education 68%, commercial (i.e. language technology companies) 26%, governments 2%, organizations 2%, and others 2%. As of 4/08/2019, *LP* has been downloaded 80,007 times. From 4/06/2018 to today, *LP* has been downloaded 14,197 times! *LP* continues to make its impact and its presence felt on every continent!

Readers will find a variety of topics in Volume 8 that will help them get acquainted with and/or deepen their knowledge of F0 and Northern Minnesota dialect of English. Some readers will find some answers as to why Mandarin learners of English have a hard time asking WH questions. Others who wonder why some Chinese speakers confuse [l] and [n] will get their questions answered. The longitudinal study of English vowels produced by a Panamanian speaker shows how much progress is possible after **six** years of studying, living, and working in the US. Russian-accented English pronunciation of stop consonants is discussed. The findings are that Russian speakers transfer the negative VOT of [b, d, g] from their native language into English but are successful in acquiring aspirated [p^h, t^h, k^h]. Two articles are devoted to Nepali students at a US university. One looks at their social networks while the other investigates the intelligibility of their vowels.

I would like to thank the authors who contributed to this volume. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to **Julie Condon**, **Michel Lopez-Backstrom**, **Barbara Kennedy**, and **Phillip Klopfenstein** for taking time out of their busy schedules to review two papers each. They spotted typos and other errors that I would not have been able to see no matter how many times I read and reread the same paper. They also made cogent stylistic remarks that have helped improve the overall quality and readability of the articles.

LP is open to all students from Minnesota and neighboring states whose papers are innovative and of extremely high academic quality. The only requirement is that papers be recommended by the faculty member who taught the course or who supervised the research project. His/her name appears at the end of the paper as the recommender. Co-publication with students is highly recommended because it is an integral part of the academic mentoring process. The deadline for submission is always **December 31st** of each year. *We are now accepting submissions for Volume 9, 2020.* *LP* adheres to the guidelines of the National Academy of Sciences, as explained in the prologue of Volume 7, 2018.²

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¹ Popper, Arthur N. 2018. *From the Editor. Acoustics Today* 14 (4): 6.

² National Academy of Sciences. 2018. *Fostering Integrity in Research*. National Academic Press. Online at: www.nap.edu/21896.