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## EDITOR'S PROLOGUE: WELCOME TO THE 13TH VOLUME

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## EDITOR'S PROLOGUE WELCOME TO THE 13<sup>TH</sup> VOLUME

Every year when I'm about to publish a new issue of *Linguistic Portfolios* (LP), I say to myself that this issue is better than all the previous ones. However, I know this is not true because past issues have been enthusiastically received by the scholarly and speech technology communities. Year after year, the number of downloads of LP keeps growing. Last year, by April 06, LP had been downloaded **146,476** times. As of today, April 04, 2024, the number of downloads stands at **169,433**, which means that articles from LP were downloaded **22,957** in a calendar year. This beats the previous year's high record of **19,874** downloads. The audience of LP also keeps growing. The readership now includes theoretical linguists, applied linguists, computer-assisted language teachers/learners, speech synthesis (endowing Artificial Intelligent systems with speech-enabled capabilities), infant cry researchers, and many others.

**Volume 13** contains 11 articles that will delight our growing audience. Phonologists will find **Koffi's** paper on formants illuminating because they can use it in their description of languages. Instead of formulating rules impressionistically, the paper on formants can help them explain phenomena such as raising, fronting, and centralization of vowels by appealing to measurements. **McDermott's** paper on the accents of video game characters and the subliminal stereotypes that various accents communicate will undoubtedly expand our current readership to include gaming researchers. Three papers by **Koffi** et al., **Miller** and **Randolph**, and **Loukusa** and **Haapaja** are devoted to speech synthesis. This is in keeping with the desire to endow critically endangered languages with Siri-like capabilities. Three other articles deal with L2-Accented Englishes. **Parada's** paper unveils the acoustic phonetic properties of the epenthetic vowel that Spanish speakers use to break up some syllable clusters. **Duris** describes some aspects of the acoustic phonetic properties of English sounds that linguistically mixed couples use while they negotiate meaning. **Koffi** and **Mason** help Vietnamese speakers improve the intelligibility of lexical stress when speaking English. **Koffi** and **Wolinski** describe the pervasiveness of single and double coda devoicing in American English. **Koffi** continues his research on Anyi by accounting for the acoustic phonetic properties of fricatives. Last but not least, **Koffi** and **Witts** report the results of a socio-acoustic survey of infant cry. This paper can literally save lives because the low-tech solution that they propose can help parents reduce the harmful decibel (dBA) levels that they hear when their infants are crying non-stop.

As usual, I would like to thank the authors who contributed these exciting publications to LP, Volume 13. I would also like to express my deepest appreciation to **Barbara Kennedy**, **Mahdi Duris**, **Megan Dell'Acqua**, and **Michel Lopez-Backstrom** for taking time out of their busy schedules to review and proofread papers. I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my colleague, **Dr. Matt Barton**, for reading and providing insightful observations on **McDermott's** paper on gaming. He is a well-known authority on this topic for having written books and articles on it.

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. Their name appears at the end of the paper or in a footnote 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 31<sup>st</sup>** of each year. *We are now accepting submissions for Volume 14, 2025.* LP adheres to the guidelines of the **National Academy of Sciences**, as explained in the prologue of Volume 7, 2018.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> National Academy of Sciences. 2018. *Fostering Integrity in Research*. National Academic Press. Online at: [www.nap.edu/21896](http://www.nap.edu/21896).