

Simone E. Pfenninger – Application for VP

A few words about myself

I am currently Associate Professor of Second Language Acquisition and Psycholinguistics at the English Department of the University of Salzburg. My research is, among others, dedicated to the effectiveness of early foreign language instruction, the bilingual primary school concept (especially in regard to time and timing), second language acquisition in the third age, multilingualism across the lifespan in “Europe’s Digital Decade” (Thierry Breton, European Commissioner for the Internal Market), and language learners with special needs (e.g. children affected by dyslexia).

Methodologically, I am particularly interested in the challenges that come with

- a) teasing apart spatially distributed between- and within-learner variation (e.g. is L2 development predicted by a learner’s cognitive state *on a given day* or rather by their *overall* level of cognitive functioning?);
- b) identifying systematic relationships between different types of intra-individual variation (e.g. do fluctuations across trials *within* L2 tasks and variation *across* L2 tasks correlate, or are they independent of one another?); and
- c) examining a system’s interconnected structure *as well as* its dynamic behavior (interactions between time and cognitive functioning as well as interactions between individual learner differences across time: e.g., how does L2 learning motivation work and over what time?).

Why am I interested in the position – and what can I bring to the association?

Although I would join the EuroSLA committee as Vice President without having served on the committee before, I have gained experience as a member of other boards, most notably in my capacity as Secretary (2018-2020) and Vice President (since 2020) of the International Association of Multilingualism (IAM).

In the past, I have shown my commitment to EuroSLA in various ways. I am co-editor of the Second Language Acquisition book series for Multilingual Matters, together with David Singleton, who founded the series in 2002. Multilingual Matters has been a sponsor of EuroSLA for decades, and the books in our SLA series enjoy great popularity among the delegates of EuroSLA. In this series, David and I try to extend to the publishing domain what organizations like EuroSLA have been trying to implement in relation to research co-operation and conferences – an open, inclusive approach to researchers of different cultures, ages, levels of experience, and theoretical and methodological propensities.

I have attended EuroSLA for many years, giving papers and presenting my own research, and had the great honor of assisting as statistical advisor and reviewer to the EuroSLA Studies book series (edited by Gabriele Pallotti, Amanda Edmonds and Ineke Vedder). I have contributed to that series as an author myself (in a volume on *Third language acquisition: Age, proficiency and multilingualism*, edited by Camilla Bardel and Laura Sánchez, 2020). In 2018, I received the Best Article Prize of the *Journal of EuroSLA* (JESLA) for a paper on foreign language learning in the third age, co-authored by Sabrina Polz, one of my former PhD students.

As VP of EuroSLA I would be particularly interested in helping our members engage with open science (open material, open data, and open access) to ensure that SLA research is shared and disseminated in the best possible way. I am convinced that open science requires a profound cultural change in the scientific community, and these challenges have to be addressed transparently with incentives and metrics. As part of the EuroSLA team, I would like to help create new opportunities and incentives so as to enable early career researchers to engage with open science in and across SLA.