

# **SURVIVING LINGUISTICS**

## **A Guide for Graduate Students**

*Second Edition*

**Monica Macaulay**



Cascadilla Press    Somerville, MA    2011

# Contents

List of Exercises .....	ix
Preface .....	xi
What Counts as Linguistics? .....	xi
Who This Book Is For .....	xii
Always Ask for Advice .....	xii
Second Edition.....	xiii
Acknowledgments .....	xiii
<b>1. Graduate School: Before, During, and After.....</b>	<b>1</b>
Before Graduate School.....	1
Your Undergraduate Major .....	1
The Dreaded GRE .....	2
Choosing a Graduate Program.....	2
The Application .....	4
Visiting Prospective Programs.....	5
Resources .....	6
Advisors.....	6
Your Peers.....	8
Book and Website Recommendations .....	9
Imposter Syndrome.....	12
Funding .....	12
Fellowships.....	13
Teaching Assistantships (TAsHips) .....	13
Project and Research Assistantships (PAships and RAships).....	14
Job Prospects Post-Degree.....	14
<b>2. The Field of Linguistics.....</b>	<b>19</b>
Types of Writing That Linguists Do .....	19
Collaborative Research .....	22
Prescriptivism and the Linguist .....	23
Learning about the Field.....	23
Books .....	24
Electronic Resources .....	24
Professional Organizations .....	28
Conferences .....	29

<b>3. Writing Basics.....</b>	<b>33</b>
Finding a Topic .....	33
Background Research .....	36
Library Resources .....	37
The Scientific Method .....	38
Making an Argument .....	40
Steps in an Argument.....	40
Mistakes to Avoid .....	41
A Final Note about Argumentation .....	42
Respect.....	42
Discussing the Opposition .....	42
Nonsexist Writing .....	42
Plagiarism .....	43
International Students and the Cultural Explanation.....	43
What Counts as Plagiarism? .....	44
Paraphrasing .....	45
Human Subjects and Informed Consent .....	47
<b>4. Mechanics: How to Write Like a Linguist .....</b>	<b>51</b>
Structuring a Paper.....	51
Numbered Sections.....	51
The Introduction .....	52
The Conclusion.....	53
Writing up a Quantitative Study .....	53
Stages in Quantitative Research .....	54
Writing a Quantitative Research Paper.....	55
Using Examples, Presenting Data.....	58
Choosing the Right Example.....	58
Formatting Examples.....	58
Incorporating Examples into the Text.....	61
Tables and Figures .....	62
Citing Linguistic Data .....	63
Citations and References .....	63
Citing Online Materials .....	64
Citation Managers .....	64
Footnotes.....	65
First Footnote.....	65
Abbreviations Footnote .....	66
Details Matter .....	66
Danger: Excessive Terminology and Thesaurus Style.....	67
My Personal Top Ten Least Favorite Writing Habits.....	69

---

<b>5. The Process of Writing</b> .....	<b>75</b>
A Place to Work.....	75
Structure.....	76
Getting Started.....	77
Outlining.....	77
The “Bird by Bird” Method.....	79
The Nike Method.....	80
Perfectionism.....	81
Writer’s Block.....	82
Draft Groups and Writing Buddies.....	83
Interpreting Comments and Taking Criticism.....	84
<b>6. Conferences</b> .....	<b>87</b>
Finding an Appropriate Conference.....	87
Writing and Submitting an Abstract.....	88
Writing Your Abstract.....	88
Components of a Linguistics Abstract.....	89
Submitting Your Abstract.....	90
Creating a Handout.....	91
What to Include.....	92
Handout Design.....	94
How Many Copies?.....	94
PowerPoint.....	95
Delivering a Paper.....	95
Read or Talk or Something in Between?.....	96
Examples: To Read or Not To Read.....	97
The Time Limit.....	97
“I’m Done Now”.....	98
The Question Period.....	98
A Note on Etiquette.....	99
Poster Sessions.....	99
Funding Your Trip.....	100
Hosting a Conference.....	101