

## INTRODUCTION

We are pleased to present the issue of *Acta Mongolica* with special section on Altaic Formal Linguistics. The articles of the special section are based on talks given at the Workshop on Altaic Formal Linguistics 17 held at the National University of Mongolia, Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, September 28-29, 2023; although they are not all of the talks (see WAFL 17 Proceedings <http://mitwpl.mit.edu/catalog/mwpl94/>), the ones that appear in this issue represent efforts by the authors to incorporate the comments given at the Workshop, and in some cases, a further revision of the proceedings paper.

WAFL 17 was organized and sponsored by the Institute for Mongolian Studies at National University of Mongolia, in collaboration with the Department of Mongolian Language and Linguistics at the National University of Mongolia.

We wish to thank Professor Zayabaatar Dalai, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Student Development of National University of Mongolia and Director of the Institute for Mongolian Studies at NUM, for his invaluable help and support throughout this endeavor.

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WAFL is a series of conferences founded by Jaklin Kornfilt (Syracuse University) and Shigeru Miyagawa (MIT). Sergei Tatevosov (Moscow State University) joined Jaklin and Shigeru more recently. The first WAFL (WAFL “0”) was held at MIT in May 2001 as a one-day event. Since then there have been 18 meetings held in Asia, Europe and the U.S. WAFL 18, was held in Jeonju, South Korea, in August 22-24, 2024, in conjunction with the Seoul International Conference on Generative Grammar.

The aim of WAFL is to bring together scholars who study Altaic languages, and to learn about

common linguistic properties of these languages by presenting in-depth studies of them. In this context, “Altaic” is understood to include Turkic, Mongolic, and Tungusic languages, as well as Korean, Japanese, and Ainu. The constructions and phenomena common to these languages are not necessarily unique to Altaic, but they provide a unique opportunity to understand systems underlying language in general through comparative study among Altaic languages. Here, the term “Altaic” makes no claims about a possible common ancestor of these languages and is to be understood as a descriptive label.

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