

Rebecca Hasselbach

Rebecca Hasselbach worked on several projects during this academic year. One of the main projects consisted of editing a Festschrift for John Huehnergard, her former dissertation advisor, who is a leading expert in the field of comparative Semitics. The editing was done in collaboration with Hasselbach's colleague Na'ama Pat-El from the University of Texas at Austin. The Festschrift contains contributions of twenty-nine scholars working in various fields, including Semitic languages, Hebrew Bible, and even biology. The volume will further include pieces of art by a friend of the honoree. The editing process of the contributions has been completed and the manuscript is currently under review by the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago.

In addition to the Festschrift, Hasselbach revised her book manuscript on "Grammatical Roles and Relations and the Reconstruction of Case in Semitic," which has been accepted for publication by Harvard Semitic Series.

Another research project Hasselbach has been working on this year is a study on grammatical agreement in Semitic languages. Agreement means features such as adjective-noun or subject-verb agreement, where the adjective or subject shows the same grammatical properties in terms of gender, number, and person-marking as the noun or verb. The individual Semitic languages vary considerably from each other regarding what elements or noun classes take full or partial agreement. The aim of Hasselbach's study is to determine which of the various agreement systems attested in Semitic, if any, represents the original situation of Semitic and to trace the development of agreement systems in the individual Semitic languages.

In addition to these projects, Hasselbach attended the North American Conference on Afroasiatic Linguistics, held in Austin, Texas, in February 2011, where she presented the results of her work on verbal endings in Semitic, which will be published in the Festschrift for John Huehnergard under the title "The Verbal Endings *-u* and *-a*: A Note on Their Functional Derivation." She was further invited to teach a one-week intensive course at the University of Münster (Germany) on the position of Akkadian in Semitic and the methodologies used for the linguistic investigation of Semitic languages. This course was taught at the department of Assyriology in June 2011. During her stay in Münster, Hasselbach gave a public talk on the scholarly history of the field of comparative Semitics entitled "Die semitische Sprachfamilie: Traditionelle Ansätze und Perspektiven."

As a service for the Oriental Institute, Hasselbach further served on the committee for the selection of the annual post-doctoral fellow.