

Post Visit Report for DVF Fellow

July 16, 2014

Professor. Stuart Shieber was a SICSA Distinguished Visiting Fellow from June 2 to June 18, 2014. The main purposes of Prof. Shieber's visit were to present to students and colleagues his recent work on synchronous grammars and semantics and to engage in discussions with researchers at the University of Aberdeen, University of Saint Andrews, and University of Edinburgh. He also consulted with university library staff on issues of scholarly communication.

At the University of Aberdeen (June 2-4, 11-18), Prof. Shieber presented a master class of three lectures on synchronous semantics. The major topics of the master class were:

- * Compositionality and synchronous grammars
- * Synchronous tree-adjoining grammars for semantics
- * Applications to natural-language-processing problems
- * Open issues in synchronous semantics

Each of the lectures was attended by researchers from multiple disciplines, including computing, philosophy, and linguistics; the discussions were lively. Prof. Shieber further met with computer science faculty (Siddharthan, van Deemter, and Wyner) and computer science research staff (Kutlak and Tintarev) to discuss summarisation, generation, and cognitive science, amongst other topics.

At the University of Edinburgh (June 9-10), Prof. Shieber lectured on synchronous semantics at ILCC Informatics Edinburgh, which was attended by around fifty people from ILCC, CISA, LFCS, and Linguistics. He had a series of meetings with various colleagues in Informatics. He gave a second talk on open access and scholarly communication, which was attended by around thirty people from Edinburgh University Library, ILCC, IPAB, and Linguistics, and had individual discussion with library staff addressed library implementation of the recent RCUK open-access requirements.

At University of Saint Andrews (June 5-6), Prof. Shieber lectured on synchronous semantics, which was attended by about ten people. Prof. Shieber had discussions with computer science faculty (Kristensson, Dyckhoff, and Nederhof), psychology faculty (Foldiak), and two computer science PhD students. His library talk was very well attended, and one attendee, a student in the master's in publishing program, was inspired by the talk to select her research topic addressing the issues he raised. A separate dinner meeting with library staff again addressed issues surrounding the RCUK open-access requirements.

Slides from Prof. Shieber's master class have been made available online:

<http://ge.tt/5mZuUcn1>