Koen Bostoen: ***A Diachronic Onomasiological Approach To Early Bantu Oil Palm Vocabulary***

Despite its ancient and long-lasting importance to sub-Saharan African economies, there has been no systematic attempt to reconstruct Proto-Bantu vocabulary referring to the oil palm (*Elaeis guineensis* Jacq.). Scholars have identified four common noun stems for 'oil palm', i.e. **-bídà* (cl. 5/6, 7/8), *°-bá* (cl. 5/6), **-gàdí* (cl. 9/10), and **-téndé* (cl. 3/4) but determined the stems' geographic distributions within the Bantu domain to be insufficiently widespread to reflect a Proto-Bantu origin. From the wider perspective of Niger-Congo, certain of these nouns undoubtedly reconstruct to a level higher than Narrow Bantu. This paper presents an onomasiological approach to the earliest Bantu 'oil palm' vocabulary, offering a diachronic semantic analysis of the main noun stems, and an evaluation of the historical implications of their current-day distribution, both with respect to each other and in the light of the available Niger-Congo data.

François-Xavier Fauvelle-Aymar: ***Four Wordlists Of Extinct Cape Khoekhoe From The 18th Century***

The Khoekhoe language, a member of the Khoisan family, was widely spoken by Southern Africa pastoralists and hunters-gatherers a few centuries ago. Apart from varieties still spoken in the 20th century (such as Nama in Namibia), very little is known of the dialect spoken by the Cape Khoekhoe. This paper is a critical edition of four manuscript wordlists collected at the end of the 18th century by Robert Jacob Gordon, then commandant of the Dutch garrison at the Cape. These lists refer to several local varieties of the Cape Khoekhoe language, collected just before it became extinct, and display two distinct systems of clicks rendering.

Charles Marfo and Adams Bodomo: ***Information Structuring In Akan Question-Word Fronting And Focus Constructions***

Wh-question fronting and focus constructions in Akan have three structural characteristics in common: constituent fronting, introduction of a clitic morpheme after the fronted constituent, and pronoun resumption in a canonical clause position. In comparing these constructions to each other and to related canonical constructions, one is confronted with the question whether the same discourse-contextual information is consistently expressed in both constructions. Using the framework of Lexical-Functional Grammar, we show that both *wh*-question fronting and focus constructions share representations in the constituent and functional structure. Considering the individual discourse-contextual information expressed in *wh*-question fronting and focus constructions, as compared to the discourse-contextual information expressed in the respective *in situ* and canonical clause counterparts, however, we show that a variance is drawn between them

in the information structure. In a further constraint-based analysis, Optimality-Theoretic LFG is used to clarify the proposals made.