

## **A note from the editors of *Journal of Ibero-Romance Creoles***

This issue launches the new name of the journal of the Association of Portuguese and Spanish-Lexified Creoles (ACBLPE): *Journal of Ibero-Romance Creoles*. It carries on the research along the lines set up in the *Revista de Crioulos de Base Lexical Portuguesa e Espanhola* (RCBLPE, aka *Journal of Portuguese and Spanish Lexically-based Creoles*), which since 2009 has been publishing high-quality papers on Ibero-Romance language contact varieties. The journal has been, and continues to be, a publication platform for creolists specializing in Portuguese- and Spanish-lexified creoles and it promotes the dissemination of current research on all aspects of theory and description as they apply or impact Ibero-Romance language contact. With our main focus on the Spanish- and Portuguese-lexified creoles and pidgins, our journal serves to complement much of the French and English creolistic research.

With the *Journal of Ibero-Romance Creoles* (JIRC), we also introduce some changes: a broader scope of interest encompassing not only creoles and pidgins, but also other language contact varieties and phenomena involving Ibero-Romance languages, and a new editorial structure that aims for a swift and efficient editorial/review process, as well as timely online publishing.

Over the four centuries in the colonial period, the Portuguese and Spanish empires spanned four continents, and the languages of the Iberian Peninsula have come into contact with highly diverse communities, linguistically as well as culturally. The profound effects on these contact situations continue today, not the least of which is that the Portuguese and Spanish languages represent two of the most widely spoken global languages in the world, with the resulting abundance and complexity of language and cultural contact situations. Of course, creoles and pidgins constitute extreme outcomes of these contact situations. From the West-African Portuguese Creoles, to Palenquero and Papiamentu in the Caribbean, and the Ibero-Asian creoles of India, Sri Lanka, and South-East Asia, the connections, shared elements, and differences among these languages fascinate and at times confound scholars and students of language contact.

In the research on pidgins and creoles, extreme processes and settings are often foregrounded, to the extent that these are sometimes claimed to be distinct from those processes and settings in other contact situations. At the same time, many of the conditions and phenomena yielding the contact-induced

language change apparent in pidgins and creoles are also shared with other situations and types of contact-induced language change. This prompts many questions. For example, how and why do Brazilian Portuguese and Afro-Hispanic varieties differ from creoles and L2 varieties of Spanish and Portuguese spoken in different settings? What do they share? Why are there so few creoles in the South American continent? What can new urban codes in African, European, and American cities tell us about the early stages of creolization? By publishing work that studies and compares different situations, processes, and outcomes, we hope we can improve our understanding of the mechanisms of contact-induced language change. This is why JIRC has widened its scope, serving as a forum where such contact varieties and the processes that underlie them can be discussed and debated, and their interrelationships explored.

The new editorial structure of the journal includes an editorial team, with J. Clancy Clements (Indiana University, USA) as Editor in Chief, Eeva Sippola (Helsingin yliopisto, Finland) and Hugo Cardoso (Universidade de Lisboa, Portugal) as Associate Editors, and Danae Pérez (Universität Zürich, Switzerland) and Eduardo Tobar (Universidade de Vigo, Spain) as Assistant Editors. In addition, JIRC's editorial board and editorial advisory board include esteemed colleagues in language contact and Spanish and Portuguese linguistics from academic institutions in Africa, Asia, Australia, Europe, North America, and South America. The number of people working in the editorial board and the division of tasks between them is intended to ensure a swift publication process so that recent research can be made easily available and accessible.

We would like to thank the previous editors of the RCBLPE, Alan Baxter and Mauro Fernández Rodríguez, as well as former Reviews Editor, Mário Pinharanda Nunes, for their tireless efforts in managing the journal through its first years. Collecting specialist articles from an international and multilingual group of researchers and ensuring a quality review process that meets the highest academic standards is a demanding task that the previous editors have accomplished successfully. The RCBLPE has effectively published research articles and review articles yearly, bringing together research presented and discussed at the association's meetings and on other international fora. In addition, the journal has counted on the expertise of the members of the editorial board, to whom we would like to extend our heartfelt thanks.

Another important aspect that deserves mention is that JIRC (and RCBLPE before it) has always been open access, trying to reduce the inequalities in the academic publishing and access to international research. With the change of the journal's name, and ongoing efforts to update indexing,

we would like to reach an even wider audience that includes both scholars, as well as speakers of Ibero-Romance contact varieties all over the world. Although the journal is academic in nature, we hope that readers from various backgrounds will find its articles interesting and useful. Beyond theoretical, descriptive and historical themes, the journal is open to topics that deal with the everyday realities of the speakers of creole languages and related language varieties that are sometimes marginal in the mainstream societies in which their speakers live.

The contributions of our 2018 issue will set the stage for the future of the journal. We hope that the journal continues to discuss and examine central themes in the study of Spanish and Portuguese creoles and pidgins, and will also include a wider range of themes that place our research interests in the broader field of contact linguistics. Ultimately, we share our most basic mission with other journals and linguistics societies: to advance the scientific study of language, as a central manifestation of human life in all its cognitive, social, cultural, and historical complexity and diversity.