The lowdown on conferences and publications.

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This document represents our general studenty impression, meant to help those who haven't yet formed their own impressions - this is no official ranking!

1 General Ling

Journals:
The top five ling journals are:

1. LI
2. NLLT
3. Journal of Linguistics
4. Lingua
5. Studia Linguistica

Conferences:

1. NELS
2. WCCFL
3. GLOW
4. at the next level, BLS and CLS

2 Sociolinguistics

Conferences:

1. For sociolinguistic work, the most important is the annual NWAVE meeting. Your work will certainly come to the attention of the field most readily if you present it at NWAVE. Next Oct. at the U. of Michigan. All socio students should make sure they're on the mailing list as of now!
2. The SECOL conference, dealing with Southern States matters, is also a good venue,
3. and also SALSA, in the Southwest.
4. The Sociolinguistic panels at LSA this year were very good.
LSA Annual Meeting - all students should definitely be members; great advantages including low student rates and good source for job info etc.
BUT, not too welcoming of sociolx papers of late. Only one session at last 2 meetings; Sunday morning which is always the last day of the conference. But, worth a try, AND, LSA now meets with both
    - the Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics (very important if you're in this specialty)
    - and the American Dialect Society (ditto)

Journals:

1. The three most important journals specializing in sociolinguistics are *Language Variation and Change*,
2. the *Journal of Sociolinguistics*,
3. and *Language in Society*.
4. *American Speech* is increasingly devoted to articles of sociolinguistic interest. (mainly dialectology- related although an excellent place to publish anything sociolinguistic on American English)
5. JPCL (pidgins and creoles)
6. *The Journal of English Linguistics*
7. and *English World-Wide* can be added to the list.
8. *Fishman's periodical Linguistics.*
9. *Hispanic Linguistics* often carries quantitative articles of great sociolinguistic interest.
10. People should check e-sources too via the LSA site.

1. For general journals, *Language* is still the most important.
2. The rest of the list is a long one.

3 Phonology and Morphology

Conferences:

1. For conferences I would say NELS is the most prestigious conference for syntax, morphology and perhaps phonology, although phonology is usually underrepresented there.
2. WCCFL is also prestigious (but phonology is not well represented there either).
3. The newer conference at Concordia, the North American Phonology Conference (#3 is this year, it's every two years), is the only recurring pure-phonology conference I can think of;
4. various special-theme conferences get organized, but they depend on the year (e.g. one that took place in February at CUNY).
5. CLS
6. and BLS are quirkier, but if there's a special session on a phonological topic, they're good venues.
7. There's also LabPhon, which is more phoneticky, but a good forum.
8. LSA has plenty of phonology papers, though it's not particularly prestigious. Still, a good forum to be heard.

   The LSA meeting has almost no function other than an opportunity for students on the job market to advertise themselves. It is also a schmooze-fest par excellence.

9. If ESCOL still happens I don't recommend bothering with it.
10. All conferences have declined in importance in recent years owing to the internet. Today's phonologists seem content to exchange papers in the Rutgers Optimality Archive without regard to quality.
11. Morphology has an annual meeting in Vienna or somewhere in Germany, usually - The International Morphology Conference. Sometimes the proceedings are published. I don't really think that it has much value for our students.

Journals:

1. The major journal for phonology is *Phonology* which used to be *Phonology Yearbook*. It's published in England.
   - Phonology (the journal) is a good default choice,

- though in some ways getting a phonology paper into LI or NLLT is more impressive.

2. *LI*

3. and *NLLT* are major venues for all kinds of theoretical linguistics, irrespective of category.

   - NLLT tends to prefer articles which are more data-driven or in which the data is new, not reanalyzed.
   - LI tends to prefer articles which conform to MIT-based theoretical views.
   - While LI is the most prestigious journal in the field, NLLT is also very well regarded.

4. I also consider the *Journal of Linguistics* to be valuable.

5. *Language* has its defenders, but the quality of the articles is rather mixed, since it tries to be "ecumenical". However, the phonology that they publish is generally high-quality. Dr. Buckley is an editor and he has good taste. But it's rather hard to get an article in *Language* because it tries to represent "the whole field" in the U.S.
   Language is good for more general papers.

6. For morphology I would say that *Morphology Yearbook* is an important publication.

7. There are a great many specialty journals which often publish very useful work and should not be overlooked. For example, the *Journal of African Linguistics* often has good papers. If one is working in a particular language area, one should consider submitting data-oriented work to one of these.
   Some areal journals are also relevant, e.g. IJAL or Studies in African Linguistics. Not sure what some of the other appropriate areal journals are, e.g. Slavic or Chinese.

8. The Canadian Journal of Linguistics (I think it's called) often has good work too and a lot of people overlook it since it's Canadian.

9. Other general journals, such as J of Linguistics, Lingua, Word, etc. are less read by most N American phonologists, but they're refereed journals and as such are worth pursuing, especially early in a career. They're available in most libraries, which means that people will be able to find your work if they see a citation. They're just less likely to stumble across it in their mail.

In my view students should try to submit a paper to a journal as soon as is feasible.
It's a good learning experience; dealing with negative reviews requires some practice; and ultimately publications are nearly all that matters in the academic world.
Conferences are useful only to advertise oneself within the linguistics community, i.e. to

establish a “reputation”; moreover they are good opportunities to meet other linguists and establish connections, both personal and research-related.

Another way to approach the problem is to look at the bibliographies of some textbooks and important recent articles. See where the references have been published. That should give you a clue where important – or at least *cited* – work is appearing.

4 Semantics, Syntax-Semantics interface

“1” means top prestige, “2” high-intermediate, “3” is low-intermediate (at least as far as the relevant sub-field goes).

CONFERENCES FOR PURE SEMANTICS’:

1. SALT (annual): very selective, 15% acceptance or less
1. Amsterdam Colloq (every 2 years): a bit more logic oriented, very technical, also hard to get in
2. Sinn und Bedeutung: getting better every year, decent acceptance %.
3. ESSLLI conferences.

Also, some specialized workshops may qualify as 1 or 2.

CONFERENCES FOR SYN/SEM INTERFACE:

1. NELS
1. WCCFL
2. CSSParis
2. ??? (I would have put CLS here, but now it may go in “3”.)
3. PLC, LSA, etc.

JOURNALS FOR SEM AND SYN/SEM
1. L&P (sem and logic)
1. NLS (sem and syn/sem)
1. LI (syn/sem)
1. NLLT (syn/sem)
2. Journal of Sem (sem)
3. Language, Lingua, etc. (sem only if not too technical; syn/sem)

5 Phonetics

Conferences:

1. A lot of work in speech technology appears in the *Proceedings of the International Congress on Speech, Acoustics, and Signal Processing.* Linguistics students interested in technology jobs would do well to present at ICASSP as it will give them exposure to a lot of potential employers. However, ICASSP publication is unlikely to count for much in the academic world, at least outside of engineering departments, since the abstracts are rather lightly refereed and the Proceedings contains the preprints submitted by those whose abstracts are accepted in advance of the conference. They don't count as real refereed publications.

2. As for conferences, there are hardly any specifically devoted to phonetics. One of the few is the Laboratory Phonology conference.

3. The International Confress of Phonetic Sciences can be a good place to meet people and have fun, but it is not very selective and the papers tend to be programmatic or otherwise lightweight.

4. The Acoustical Society of America meeting is still a fairly important venue.

5. There is much more phonetics at the LSA than there used to be, both in sessions devoted specifically to phonetics and in others, including the SSILA sessions. The LSA has not traditionally been considered an important venue for phonetics, but giving a talk there probably provides much more exposure to other linguists than any other venue, so it is probably the best place to present a paper of interest to non-phoneticians or to get exposure if you're looking for a job in a linguistics department.

Journals:

1. The most important journal for phonetics is the

2. Journal of Phonetics.

3. After this, probably *Phonetica.*

4. *The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America* used to be very important. It still publishes some phonetics but is not as central as it used to be.

5. *The Journal of the International Phonetic Association* serves primarily as the organ of the Association but does publish research papers. For the most part this is not where you will find important papers, but it is a likely venue for announcements of newly discovered speech sounds or distinctions.

6. Mainstream linguistics journals are more likely than they used to be to publish phonetics papers.
   If you have something of fairly general interest, I would say that there is no longer any reason not to submit to *Language* or *Phonology* or a language-specialized journal such as the *Journal of East Asian Linguistics.*

7. Much of the work on speech perception is done by psychologists and published in psychology journals, such as the *Journal of Verbal Learning and Verbal Behavior*. Journals like JVLVB also publish work on other aspects of phonetics, such as planning of speech production. This is a prestigious venue for this sort of work.

Generally speaking, students looking for linguistics jobs should be careful about publishing their major work in engineering journals or conference proceedings. A lot of these are very lightly refereed.
Engineering conferences serve to a considerable extent as places for the exchange of information about who is doing what as opposed to what has been learned. Many of them accept any abstract whose topic is appropriate and which is not obviously off-the-wall. So a lot of engineering conference proceedings, and some journals as well, will not have the weight of refereed journal articles.
There are exceptions to this. The Journal of the Acoustical Society of America, for example, though no longer as central as it once was, is carefully refereed.

6 Syntax

Conferences:

1. For conferences, I would say that the most important are NELS
2. and WCCFL. That's pretty straight-forward.
3. On the European end, the GLOW colloquium has a special status that extends to us as well.

Journals:

1. For journals, there's *LI*
2. and *NLLT* (probably the former is harder to get into in some respects, in any case they have slightly different concentrations).
3. On the next level there are many good journals, which are important in the sense that they have much faster response/review/publication times. Some examples are *The Linguistic Review*,
4. *Syntax*,
5. *Studia Linguistica*, and so on.
6. Somewhere in this list one has to include *Language*, although that journal has kind of a special status (it tends to aim for 'general interest' papers).