

Dear colleagues, dear Lotze Prize recipient,

(as some of you might know, I loathe giving speeches and I am also very bad at saying nice things about people, so I got some help from Alexandra).

According to the webpage's statement, the Lotze Prize is awarded "to scientists who have made significant contributions to experimental philosophy and pragmasemantics. The internal consistency, coherence and significance of the nominee's research programme is important, not the uniformity with current mainstream paradigms."

It is with great pleasure that we award this year's Lotze Prize to Louise McNally.

Louise McNally is Professor of Linguistics at the Universitat Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona. She received her PhD in 1992 from UC Santa Cruz with the thesis 'An Interpretation for the English Existential Construction'. She is a well-known figure in the field of formal semantics and has also worked on topics at the interfaces with syntax and pragmatics, and in collaboration with experimental and computational linguists. She has never been fixed to a particular framework but always tried to think outside the box, thereby constantly exploring new directions and research methods. Topics she has worked on include the internal semantics of nominals and their role in sentence semantics; the semantics of adjectives, gradability and modification more generally, stativity, and existential and related constructions.

She has been involved in many national and international research projects and has received various grants over the course of her academic career. Her current research project aims at connecting conceptual and referential models of meaning, which is one of the reasons why we invited her to give a talk at this year's Szklarska. In addition, she participates or participated in two networks: the Spanish network Meaning and Grammar, which aims at strengthening the critical mass of semantics and pragmatics researchers in Spain, as well as the EURO-XPRAG network (2009-2013).

She is regularly involved in the organisation of international workshops and conferences (the biggest ones: Sinn und Bedeutung 2006, Experimental Pragmatics 2011) and was the main organiser of the ESSLLI in 2015. She was keynote speaker at the major international semantics conferences SALT, SuB and the Amsterdam Colloquium, and at many other linguistic meetings.

In addition to co-editing various volumes, she is currently associate editor at the journal Semantics and Pragmatics (and just stepped down from being associate editor at Natural Language and Linguistic Theory). She has published articles in first-rate journals and refereed volumes and proceedings and was invited to contribute overview articles on modification (Cambridge Handbook of Semantics), existential sentences (Semantics), and strong and weak nominals (Wiley Companion to Semantics), which clearly shows that she is highly valued in the linguistic community.

Most importantly to me/us, she is also a first-class mentor to students, PhD students and postdocs alike, a great colleague and a role model for any (not just female) researcher in the field.

Congratulations!