The conference, organised by the St Andrews Institute for Language and Linguistic Studies (SAILLS), in collaboration with the Europäischer Linguistischer Arbeitskreis Mannheim (ELAMA), will explore the effects of language contact (since 1500) in four areas of western Europe: Scandinavia and the Low Countries, the British Isles, France and the Iberian Peninsula. While most attention will be devoted to contact between the traditional languages of Europe, space will be given to contact with immigrant languages from outside the Continent.

For further information please contact:
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Plenary speakers:
Peter Trudgill (Fribourg)
Sture Ureland (Mannheim)
Peter Nelde (Brussels)
Ralph Penny (London)

While both Neogrammarians and Structuralists recognise the effects of language contact on the development of the languages of Europe, especially in the remote past, they have on the whole preferred endogenous and language-internal explanations of language change. Nowadays, linguists are perhaps less subject to the influence of nationalism and the cult of language 'purity', and more sensitive to the mobility of populations and to the role of exogenous influences.

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Papers will include, but need not be limited to, topics such as:
- levelling and koinéization
- lexical borrowing
- language obsolescence and death
- language shift and language planning

The deadline for abstracts is 1 March 2004. All abstracts (150-200 words) with names of presenters, position and affiliation may be sent to the conference administrator Ms Snezha Mathewson as below:

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