

Dear SPCL Accra participants,

The abstract acceptance emails were sent out last week and we organisers are very much looking forward to welcoming you at the University of Ghana during the first week of August 2011. In this circular, we would like to inform you about the procedure for conference registration as well as reservation of accommodation and participation in the post-conference excursion.

Registration

SPCL Accra registration is now open. Please fill in the registration form online at www.uni-giessen.de/cms/spcl-accra > Registration. This form provides detailed information on the conference fee, as well as the fees for accommodation and the post-conference excursion. For our payment options, see below. Please note that the reduced rates for the conference fee and the post-conference excursion as well as guaranteed accommodation in one of the university guest houses are only available if your registration and **payment reaches us before the deadline of 31 May**.

Travel

Getting to Ghana by air is no problem. Accra's Kotoka International Airport is served by many international airlines, many offering daily flights (for a list of airlines, please consult the conference webpage: www.uni-giessen.de/cms/spcl-accra > Travel information).

The University of Ghana campus is less than 30 mins away from the airport. There are taxis at the airport, but we are also planning to organise an airport pickup. You can sign up for this service on the conference registration form.

Visa and passport

International delegates will need a **visa and a passport** (the latter has to be valid for at least 6 months beyond the intended stay). Please refer to your nearest Ghanaian embassy or consulate and make sure to apply in time (processing your visa application may take a month or more). You can use the following two addresses for the visa application form:

1. Mavis Engmann
Institute of African Studies Chalets
University of Ghana
P.O. Box LG 73
Legon, Accra
Ghana
Tel. +233 (0)302513387/6

2. Prof. Kofi Agyekum
Head of Department of Linguistics
P.O. Box 61
University of Ghana
Legon, Accra
Ghana
Tel. +233 (0)289527702

You will also have to provide two addresses on the disembarkation form handed out to you during the flight, so make sure to have the above (or other) addresses available in your hand luggage.

Health and vaccinations

Visitors to Ghana need a **valid yellow fever vaccination** (your vaccination card has to be shown at immigration). Please contact your doctor well before the trip for **other vaccinations** you may need and for the usual **anti-malaria treatment**. There are good private and public hospitals in Accra, but make sure that your health insurance covers your stay in Ghana.

Accommodation

We would like to encourage conference participants to make use of **accommodation on campus**, where we have reserved a block of comfortable, air-conditioned, en-suite rooms. Staying on campus will be the most comfortable option for delegates, since we will provide a shuttle service between the campus guest houses and the conference venue. Also, the new university swimming pool is near the

guest houses. Those wishing to stay in hotels off campus (East Legon) will have to book rooms themselves and arrange their own transportation to and from campus. While we will do our best to accommodate later registrations, we can only guarantee your room on campus if your payment reaches us by 31 May.

Post-conference excursion

The post-conference excursion to Kormantin, Cape Coast and Elmina will take place from 7 to 9 August (see conference webpage > Social programme and excursion, for an itinerary). The cost is US\$ 252-342, depending on the type of room you choose for the two nights at Anomabo Beach Resort (<http://anomabo2.digitafrica.com>; for payment later than 31 May, prices increase by US\$25). This covers transportation, entrance fees to castles and Kakum National Park, 2 breakfasts, 2 dinners at the beach resort, 1 lunch at a restaurant, 2 boxed lunches on the bus, ample drinking water. We will of course try to accommodate later registrations, but we can only guarantee your place on the post-conference excursion if your payment reaches us by 31 May.

Payment details

We offer four options for payment:

1. Direct bank transfer to the conference account in Ghana
2. Online payment via Moneybookers (not available for US or Nigerian accounts/credit cards)
3. By check drawn on a US bank to conference organiser John Singler
4. Payment on site (cash only; no checks, no credit cards)

1. Direct bank transfer to the conference account in Ghana

There are two conference accounts, held by the organiser Kari Dako, one US Dollar account and one Ghanaian Cedi account. If at all possible, transfer the fees to the Dollar account (a). Note that for most delegates outside West Africa this option will probably incur high international transfer fees.

[the account details in the emailed version of this circular have been removed for security reasons. Please refer to your inbox or write to spcl-accra@anglistik.uni-giessen.de]

2. Online payment via Moneybookers

In order to avoid exorbitant fees for international bank transfers we have set up an easy online payment solution with Moneybookers, an internationally accredited bank with a good reputation. This solution allows payment by online bank transfer, credit or giro card and bank wire deposit in US Dollars. The fee is one of the lowest to be found and amounts to an absolute maximum of ca. 2.5% of the sum transferred, depending on the type of transaction you choose (most transactions will cost less than 1 US\$). If you hold a non-US credit card or bank account, please follow the following steps:

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3. By check drawn on a US bank to conference organiser John Singler

Unfortunately, payment via Moneybookers is not possible from US or Nigerian accounts or credit cards. Those **with a US bank account** (note: it **must** be a check draw on a US bank) can send a check made out to John Singler:

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4. Payment on site (cash only; no checks, no credit cards)

You can also pay your fees during the on-site conference registration at the beginning of the conference. Please note that this option has several disadvantages:

- a. the on-site registration fee and fee for the conference excursion will be higher
- b. we can only guarantee accommodation in one of the campus guesthouses and the post-conference excursion if your payment reaches us by 31 May.
- c. payment on site is only possible in cash (US Dollars or the equivalent in Ghanaian Cedis). We regret that we cannot accept checks or credit cards.

Financial assistance for delegates

The SPCL can provide modest financial aid from the Stephen Peck Fund to students who have financial needs, and are studying creoles, pidgins and/or other contact languages, for the purpose of attending conferences of the SPCL. Priority will be given to students who are native speakers of a creole language and working within their own speech community. Eligible students, whose abstracts are accepted for presentation at an SPCL conference, may send a request for partial funding or further information to Shelome Gooden <sgooden+@pitt.edu>.

Unfortunately, SPCL and the organisers are unable to provide financial assistance beyond this.

With all our best wishes,

Magnus Huber
(for the SPCL Accra organisation team)