Editor’s Message:
State-of-the-State Feature on Morphology:
What is in a Word?

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Editor’s Message

State-of-the-State Feature on Morphology: What is in a Word?

Our expanded State-of-the-State Feature this year focuses on morphology. When language students think about morphology, they often consider the smallest units of meaning, such as prefixes, suffixes, and root words. These slight and subtle differences form the basis of communication and showcase linguistic expression in its humanistic splendor. Morphological nuances enrich language through endless combinations and variations.

This issue of *Hispania* (100.4) features five articles that explore the social and linguistic importance of morphological variation. Variety implies diversity, which is humanistic at its core. What is variation, and why examine it? Do we as speakers and listeners understand variants in the same way?

In May 2017, with these questions in mind, I listened and learned at the XIII Encuentro de Morfólogos, also known as MØRFEMÁLAGA, at the Universidad de Málaga in Spain. Unlike the morphologists who participated, I had not given a lot thought to morphology since my graduate school days. I attended the conference at the invitation of *Hispania* Associate Editor Francisco Carriscondo, Susana Guerrero Salazar, and Raúl Cremades García, who are all faculty members at the Universidad de Málaga. The papers and posters were from scholars around the globe, including Portugal and Latin American (e.g., Universidade de Coimbra, Universidad de Chile, among others).

I am delighted to share with you a constellation of peer-reviewed articles that were first presented at the conference in Málaga. The faculty organizers of MØRFEMÁLAGA wrote the introduction to these papers that appears on the next page.

Sheri Spaine Long
Editor
*Hispania*

Special Note: In celebration of the 100th year of the publication of *Hispania*, we have published a special issue in 2017 titled “Visionary Essays: The Future of Spanish and Portuguese.” The centenary issue (100.5) brings together a variety of voices of scholars and teachers of Spanish and Portuguese. Read it online at www.hispaniajournal.com.