Linguistics then and now: The view from NELS

Paul Kiparsky, Stanford University

October 26, 2019

My talk begins with a brief history of NELS, relying for the early years on personal memories and on interviews with participants and organizers. I then offer a perspective on the past half century of linguistics seen through the lens of NELS, with reflections on the changing goals and norms of the field. I review a selection of talks from NELS 1 through 4, as published separately—there were no proceedings yet—and track their impact up to the present. In each case, all the issues they raised, in most cases for the first time, remain live, though we can now pose the questions in a deeper way and in a broader context, and give more principled answers to them.