

Abralin ao Vivo – Linguists Online

By Miguel Oliveira, Jr., President Abralin (Associação Brasileira de Linguística)

This event was organized in response to the pandemic caused by the coronavirus, which restricts us all from any academic meetings. After an intense period of organization, initially involving Abralin and CIPL, the event started on May 4th 2020, with Noam Chomsky's opening conference. The following associations joined the project later on: ALFAL, SAEL, LSA LAGB, SLE, ALS, SEL, BAAL and AILA.

This event had proportions never seen before in an academic event: there were 587 speakers from 44 countries participating in the activities, with 259 conferences, 89 round tables and three symposiums during exactly 87 days, with an average of 4 activities per day, from Sunday to Sunday. All the participations were voluntary, featuring some of the greatest names in linguistics in the world, in solidarity with the difficult moment we were going through. We had lecturers of the most diverse nationalities, based in various corners of the world: South America was represented in abundance, as well as North America and Europe. But we also had several colleagues from Central America, Africa and Oceania. We had colleagues from various ethnicities, races, genders, and ages, representing the most varied fields and theoretical backgrounds in Linguistics. We had discussions beyond theoretical aspects; discussions that approached social and political issues inescapable for the moment we live. The event highlighted our strength as a community that promotes the importance of science for the understanding of the world around us and the conflicts present in it. But above all, that promotes the necessity and urgency of the dissemination of science in moments of crisis, like the one we are going through.

It must also be said that the audience was equally great: there have been more than half a million views of all activities to date. Besides the Brazilian, American, Argentinean, Spanish and German audience (the main audiences of the event), we had expressive views from several other countries, such as United Kingdom, Portugal, Mexico, Japan and Australia. But the event also reached less obvious countries, such as Sri Lanka, Kenya, Lithuania, Estonia, Philippines and Serbia, all with hundreds and dozens of views. It was a total of, so far, 85 countries reached.

The online format of the event made possible the interaction between the audience and the speakers, the interaction between the audience itself, which was very intense in several activities, the repercussion of the themes on social networks, and also a special issue of Abralin's journal *Cadernos de Linguística*, which will be published soon. Besides, those who could not watch it synchronously can watch, free of charge and as many times as they want, all the content produced, available on the event's website, aovivo.abralin.org, and optionally on the YouTube platform. It is an unparalleled linguistic collection, which will have a great impact on remote teaching.

Several themes were addressed at the event Abralin ao Vivo – Linguists Online, under different theoretical perspectives. All proposals were welcomed, in a plural and democratic way. Accessibility and inclusion were, whenever possible, considered.

In this time of crisis, the discussions promoted by Abralin ao Vivo showed that in the midst of a global pandemic and a crisis in science in general, something even more pronounced in the field of human sciences, Linguistics faces challenges for its survival. However, while the pandemic has caused profound damage to society, to the field of linguistics there has been an upsurge of discussions and interests never before seen in history. And Abralin ao Vivo is an example of this.

In response to several requests from fellow researchers, teachers and students from all over the world, who felt welcomed by the event at a particularly difficult moment in our history, Abralin ao Vivo turned into a permanent series. Abralin will continue promoting the dissemination of knowledge in the area of Linguistics on a platform that will leave the state of the art of a generation of linguists recorded for posterity.