2004-2006 Report on Pedagogical and Scientific Activities of Professor Catedrático

John Alexander Holm

in view of his nomination to the definitive title of Professor Catedrático

After a unanimous decision that I had passed the examination to obtain the title of Agregado em Estudos Anglo-Americanos (3º Grupo), held at the Faculty of Letters of the University of Coimbra on March 14, 2004, I was provisionally nominated to this title on March 10, 2005 for a period of two years. Since March, 2004 I have been professionally active in the following areas:

1. Teaching

2. Research and the publication of findings

3. Participation in conferences, colloquia, and scientific meetings

4. Advising graduate students in their research

5. Participating in academic examinations

6. Other academic and professional activities.

1. Teaching

1.1 Undergraduate (Licenciatura or first cycle)

1. English Linguistics I

I taught this course during the first semesters of 2004-2005, 2005-2006, and 2006-2007. In 2005-2006 I changed the content to match that of the course of the same name taught by Dr. Ana Luis, i.e. English phonetics, phonemics, morphology and lexical semantics.

2. English Linguistics II

I taught this course during the second semesters of 2004-2005, 2005-2006, and 2006-2007. In 2005-2006 I changed the content to match that of the course of the
same name taught by Dr. Ana Luis, i.e. English syntax from a generative approach.

This is the theory now taught at most European and North American universities, but I confine theoretical discussion to what I deem useful for future teachers of English on the secondary level.

1.2 Post-graduate and Master’s degree (second cycle)

1. **Contact Linguistics I**

I taught this seminar during the first semester of 2005-2006. It is an introduction to the study of pidgins, creoles, and other kinds of languages that resulted from contact. It is also an introduction to doing original linguistic research.

2. **Contact Linguistics II**

I taught this seminar during the second semester of 2005-2006. It focuses on the kind of partial restructuring that produced nonstandard Brazilian Portuguese and African American English, with emphasis on the preparation of an original piece of linguistic research and its presentation at a conference.

2. **Research and the publication of findings**

I have done research in contact linguistics for the past 32 years. The two main questions I have pursued are whether the restructuring associated with creolization is a graded phenomenon that can result in partially restructured vernacular varieties, and whether creole languages share enough structural features so that they could be said to constitute a typology. The first line of inquiry resulted in the book I published in 2004, *Languages in Contact: the partial restructuring of vernaculars* (Cambridge University Press). This won the 1,500 euro prize for the best book in linguistics awarded by the European Society for the Study of English at the University of London this past September, and Cambridge have just
decided to issue a paperback edition because of demand.

The second line of inquiry led to my editing, with Professor Peter Patrick of the University of Essex in England, a volume of some 500 pages entitled *Comparative Creole Syntax: Parallel outlines of 18 creole grammars*, which Battlebridge Press in London will publish this spring. Portions of the manuscript helped define and organize a major research project at the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology in Leipzig (Germany) entitled the *Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Structures (ApiCS)*, which I was invited to join last year.

The principal creolist at this institution, which enjoys considerable international prestige, is Dr. Susanne Michaelis. Last year she asked me to join her in editing a five-volume anthology entitled *Contact Languages for the series Critical Concepts in Linguistics* published by Routledge in London and New York. Selecting the most important papers to be republished in this collection is the kind of honor reserved for senior leaders in the field.

I take the linguistic research that my graduate students pursue very seriously and, when appropriate, I take on joint projects with them (see section 3). One such project was a study I undertook with Dominika Swolkien, one of my doctoral students, entitled “A expansão do crioulo cabo-verdiano para São Vicente: factores históricos-sociais na difusão”, which we presented at a colloquium entitled *Cabo Verde: Origens da sua sociedade e do seu crioulo*, held at the Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (Germany) in September 2004, which provided us with travel grants. This article appeared in 2006 in a book of the same name as the colloquium edited by J. Lang, J.-L. Rougé, M. J. Soares and myself and published by the Narr-Francke-Attempto-Verlag in Tübingen. Below are some of the other articles I have forthcoming or have published since March, 2004:


2006a. with Dominika Swolkien. The vernaculars of São Vicente (Cape Verde) and Brazil: demographics and degrees of restructuring. *Revista Internacional de Línguística Iberoamericana* IV:1, pp. 71-86.


3. Participation in conferences, colloquia, and scientific meetings

The Max Planck Institute has invited me to Leipzig on a number of occasions over the past two years. In June of 2005 I gave a joint paper with my Coimbra colleague Ana R. Luís entitled “Superstrate Inflections in the Portuguese-based creoles and the nature of creolization” at the conference on Creole Language Structure between Substrates and Superstrates hosted by the Max Planck Institute. That November they invited me back to talk about my 2004 book and I gave a paper entitled “Contact-induced restructuring: social factors and their linguistic consequences.” In 2006 I was asked to participate in a workshop connected to the research project discussed above on the Atlas of Pidgin and Creole Language Structures from February 18th to 19th. This year I have been asked to give a paper at their Symposium on Language Contact and the Dynamics of Language: Theory and Implications, to be held May 10th to 13th. I will give a paper entitled “Creole Typology and Substrate Typology” and participate in the round table discussion on “Contact, Typology and evolution of languages.”

I have also given the following conference papers, several of which were joint presentations with my Coimbra graduate students:


2005a. with Liliana Inverno. The Vernacular Portuguese of Angola and Brazil: partial restructuring of the noun phrase. Presented to the Associação: Crioulos de Base
Lexical Portuguesa e Espanhola, Université de Orléans


4. Advising graduate students in their research

Since 2002 I have been advising Dominika Swolkien de Sousa on her doctoral dissertation entitled “The Creole of São Vicente, Cape Verde: its genesis and development”, which she is writing under a grant from the Fundação para Ciência e a Tecnologia.

The Amsterdam Center for Language and Communication at the University of Amsterdam has asked me to be on the doctoral committee of Hugo Cardoso, a former student of mine at Coimbra. He has been doing fieldwork in India on his dissertation, “A linguistic description of Diu Creole Portuguese.”

I have also been working with Liliana Inverno on her doctoral dissertation, “Angola’s transition to Vernacular Portuguese: Morphosyntactic restructuring” under a grant from the Fundação para Ciência e a Tecnologia. This is an expansion of the master’s thesis on the Angolan Vernacular Portuguese noun phrase which she wrote under my supervision and defended in March, 2006, receiving an evaluation of “muito bom.”

Currently the following students are writing master’s thesis under my supervision:

Carlos Sousa Fontes: “A lexical study of São Tomé Creole Portuguese”

Incanha Intumbo: “A mophosyntactic comparison of Guine-Bissau Creole, Portuguese, and Balanta”

Nicté-Ha Itzel Salas Barrena: “The Creole Portuguese of Cape Verde”
(Santiago): Evidence of Decreolization?”

Sandra Luisa Madeira: “A Bibliography of Restructured Portuguese in Africa”

5. Participating in academic examinations

In February, 2005 I served as the arguente no júri de provas for a doctoral dissertation written by Professor Isabel Tomás entitled O Kristang de Malaca: processos linguísticos e contextos sociais na obsolescência das línguas at the Faculdade de Ciências Sociais e Humanas da Universidade Nova de Lisboa.

In November of the same year I served as the head of the committee examining Professor Jean-Louis Rougé for his habilitation at the Université d’Orléans (France).

In June of 2006 I served on the committee examining Professor Alan N. Baxter for his agregação at the Universidade de Macau.

6. Other academic and professional activities

I am a member of the following professional societies:

Linguistic Society of America
American Dialect Society
Society for Pidgin and Creole Linguistics
Associação: Crioulos de Base Lexical Portuguesa e Espanhola
European Society for the Study of English

I have served on the board of editors of the following publications:

Études linguistiques / Linguistische Studien

The Creole Language Library
I am the coordinator of the postgraduate and master’s program in Descriptive Linguistics.

I serve on the Comissão Científica of the Grupo de Estudos Anglo-Americanos.

I also organized an international conferences with the help of one of my doctoral students, Liliana Inverno. It was the meeting of the Associação: Crioulos de Base Lexical Portuguesa e Espanhola at the University of Coimbra from June 28th to 30th, 2006.

Coimbra, January 19, 2007