

Prefacio

We are very pleased to announce the second volume of the BeLLS series, *Atlas lingüístico de Belice, El Salvador, Honduras y Panamá. Nivel fonético* edited by Diana Giraldo, Lidun Hareide and Miguel Ángel Quesada Pacheco.

This volume is an important contribution to the project *Atlas lingüístico de América Central*, which is directed by Quesada Pacheco. The project aims at mapping the linguistic varieties of Spanish spoken in Central America with regard to phonetics, morphosyntax and vocabulary. The volume presents the phonetics of the varieties spoken in Belize, El Salvador, Honduras and Panama. With this publication, the mapping of Panama is complete, whereas work is in progress on the morphosyntax and vocabulary of the varieties in the other countries mentioned above, as well as Guatemala. The linguistic situation in Nicaragua, Costa Rica and Panama has been covered in previous works published under the auspices of Quesada Pacheco's project. It is worth mentioning that one of the papers investigates Spanish in Belize, where Spanish is not an official language although spoken by some 50 per cent of the population.

The second volume accords very well with the idea behind BeLLS: to make original research on language and linguistics available to a wide audience and thus to stimulate further research. BeLLS is an open-access and peer-reviewed publication channel. It is democratic in the sense that both individual researchers and libraries can download its volumes free of charge. The two books that have appeared in the BeLLS series so far deal with a limited number of topics. Our aim is for BeLLS to be a channel for excellent research in all fields of language and linguistics.

Leiv Egil Breivik & Lidun Hareide
General Editors