Hans Rausing Endangered Languages Project, SOAS

- Peter K. Austin
- ELAP, Department of Linguistics
- SOAS
HRELP

- funded by Arcadia (formerly Lisbet Rausing Charitable Fund) with a commitment of £20,000,000 (approx. $40 million), originally over a 10 year period 2002-2012
- **ELDP** – distributes around £1 million per year in 5 types of large and small grants; currently funds 110 teams of researchers around the world documenting languages and cultures
- **ELAR** – digital archive at SOAS
- **ELAP** – academic programme for training MA, PhD, post-doctoral researchers
Other activities

- Publishing: journal (*Language Documentation and Description*, CD-ROMs, website, multimedia research projects (eg. Dawes, Jewish Iraqi life histories)
- Workshops, seminars, public lectures, exhibitions
- ‘Endangered Languages Week’ public outreach and Open House
- Training courses – one and two day specialist courses (eg. XML day, sound recording and archiving), grantee training (6 days intensive for all ELDP grantees)
- International collaborative projects – BABEL Eurocores, Delaman, 3L summer school (Leiden-London-Lyon), European MA
- Advice on technology, research methods, grant applications, publication, endangered languages generally
Example: 18 Endangered Austronesian language projects

- Rau, Yami, Taiwan
- Macdonald, Palawan, Philippines
- Hattori, Pingilapese, Micronesia
- Jukes, Toratan, Indonesia
- Bowden, Helong, Indonesia
- Arka, Rongga, Indonesia
- Florey et al, 4 Central Maluku languages, Indonesia
- van Engelenhoven, Maku’a, East Timor
- Sercombe, Eastern Penan, Malaysia
- Rendina, Numee, New Caledonia
- Guerin, Maafea, Vanuatu
- Hyslop, Vures, Vanuatu
- Budd, Biriebo, Vanuatu
- Johnson, Seke, Vanuatu
- Barbour, Neverver, Vanuatu
- Schmidt, Qatareu, Vanuatu
- Raymond, Kubakota, Solomons
- Voica, Blablanga, Solomons
Postgraduate courses at SOAS

- **MA in Language Documentation and Description** - one year degree, for recruitment purposes must be available to students with no previous expertise in linguistics; two pathways: *Field Linguistics* (for students with linguistics BA degrees) and *Language Documentation and Support* (for all students) – currently 17 enrolled, 44 graduates

- **PhD in Field Linguistics** - three or four year degree, pre-requisite of MA in Linguistics or LD&D or related area, requires at least one year of fieldwork – currently 18 enrolled, 1 about to graduate

Peter Austin
HRELP

NSF Documenting Endangered Languages Workshop,
Durham, New Hampshire, 2007
MA in Lang Doc and Desc

- **Core courses** (most 1 term, 10 weeks) - principles of linguistic analysis, issues in LD&D, technology and LD&D, applied LD&D, field methods
- **Options courses** (each 1 term, 10 weeks) - array of choices, eg. typology, historical, sociolinguistics, phonetics, multimedia and language support, structure of language X, syntax, phonology, semantics, etc.
- **Research training seminar**
- **Dissertation** (10,000 words)
- **Recommended** attendance at department seminars, workshops (1 per term) and training courses
The core

- **Principles of Linguistics Analysis** – basic linguistic theoretical and analytical techniques
- **Issues** - project design, research ethics, IPR, researchers and communities, grant application, world language ecology, endangered and minority languages, language contact, ethnographic methods,
- **Technology** - IT and media basics, recording and editing techniques, data analysis and design, data formats and standards, archiving issues, software tools (Transcriber, Shoebox ~ Toolbox, ELAN, Praat, IMDI)
The core (cont.)

- **Applied** - orthography design, literacy, lexicography, translation, language teaching pedagogy, curriculum design, language policy, advocacy

- **Fieldmethods** - work with speaker of unknown language (Khorchin, Dida, Sylheti) to exercise skills

- **Research training seminar** - fortnightly meetings to explore research methods and skills, tools (EndNote, Powerpoint), presentation and reporting skills (presentation dry runs), teamwork skills, cohort development

- **Dissertation** - 10,000 word essay on a research topic, sometimes the fieldmethods language but frequently a sociolinguistics or applied topic
PhD in Field Linguistics

- **Year 1** - advanced training in linguistics and LD&D. At end of year upgrade from MPhil to PhD via core chapter, bibliography, public presentation. Application for fieldwork funds
- **Year 2** - fieldwork overseas
- **Year 3** - thesis write-up and short follow-up fieldwork
- **Year 3.5 or 4** - thesis submission for examination
PhD training

- **Advanced level** seminars in documentation theory and practice, eg. grammar writing, poetics and rhetoric, TAM systems, LFG, advanced field methods
- **Research Training** seminar in research methods and skills, teamwork, presentation, grant writing
- **Research seminar** - work in progress presentations by PhD students, post-doctoral fellows and staff
- **Departmental seminar** - attendance at weekly seminar
- Other workshops, seminars and training courses at SOAS and other Univ of London departments