

## *Canadian Linguistics Association National Achievement Award 2014*

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The 2014 recipient of the Canadian Linguistic Association National Achievement Award is Dr. Jila Ghomeshi of the Department of Linguistics, University of Manitoba.

This award honours researchers whose work has expanded our knowledge in linguistics and has brought distinction to the Canadian linguistics community. It also recognizes their role as ambassadors in the promotion of Canadian linguistics here and abroad. Jila is a very worthy recipient of this award.

Dr. Ghomeshi is recognized for her effective communication about language and her engagement with the broader community on the social significance of language and language choices. Since the 1990s Dr. Ghomeshi has appeared in the popular press and radio, community panels, writers' festivals, and other public forums to speak on issues relating to gender and language, language and power, clichéd language, and slang.

Dr. Ghomeshi's characteristic perspicacity and engaging style have made her a go-to spokesperson on linguistics. Her 2011 book, *Grammar matters: The social significance of how we use language*, stayed on the Winnipeg best-sellers' list for three months. By bringing in current examples of popular language use, Dr. Ghomeshi wowed readers by insisting on the relevance of linguistic choices for public debate on class, race, and the creation of authority.

The fifth winner of the National Achievement Award, Dr. Ghomeshi received her Ph.D. from the University of Toronto and has a broad range of specializations in linguistics, including distinguished research on the Persian language which has helped shape the Persian linguistics community in North America. Her excellence in teaching has been acknowledged by Outstanding Teaching Awards at the University of Manitoba, where she was the Director of the Institute for the Humanities from 2005–2007.

Dr. Ghomeshi gave a plenary lecture as part of Congress 2014 at the annual conference of the Canadian Linguistic Association, Brock University, entitled "Who are we talking to when we talk to 'the public' about linguistics?"

Dr. Ghomeshi does what other scholars may only dream of. Her writing and speaking engage the public around issues of language and linguistics with clarity, wit, and rigorous insight. For these contributions she richly deserves the recognition embodied by the National Achievement Award of the Canadian Linguistic Association.

**CLA president Leslie Saxon presents the National Achievement Award to 2014 honoree Jila Ghomeshi.**



**La présidente de l'ACL, Leslie Saxon, présente le Prix d'excellence national 2014 à la récipiendaire, Jila Ghomeshi.**