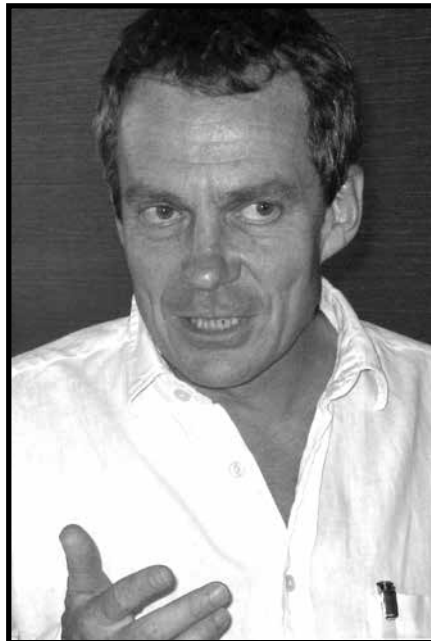


Adam Kilgarriff Prize

At last year's eLex conference in Herstmonceux Castle (UK), almost every paper and poster included at least one reference to Adam Kilgarriff's enormous body of work – a vivid demonstration (if any were needed) of Adam's extraordinary impact on the fields he had worked in. A group of us met there to discuss setting up a prize in honour of our dear friend and gifted colleague, who died in May 2015. We are now pleased to announce the launch of the Adam Kilgarriff Prize, which will

be awarded every two years, in conjunction with the eLex conference series. The Prize is aimed at younger researchers and is intended to recognise outstanding work in any of the fields which Adam enriched with his remarkable intellect and original thinking.

Almost uniquely, Adam was a major figure in three quite distinct communities: natural language processing (NLP), lexicography, and corpus linguistics. He was an enthusiastic, insightful, and prolific contributor to each of these fields, but perhaps his best work straddled all three, and few people have had such a profound impact on the practice of contemporary lexicography in particular. Through numerous collaborations with dictionary makers, Adam brought to bear his NLP skills and can-do approach to provide elegant solutions to many of the challenges which lexicographers face day to day. Issues such as word sense disambiguation, corpus building, and headword-list development all engaged Adam's attention – and lexicography is the richer for his interventions. In many cases, he proposed a software solution, and this led to the development



Adam Kilgarriff at Euralex 2010

of tools such as the GDEX (good example) algorithm, now widely used (in several languages) as a computational shortcut for the process of finding in a corpus the most appropriate example sentences and phrases for a dictionary.

During a research project at Brighton University in the late 1990s, Adam conceived – with his co-researcher David Tugwell – the notion of a Word Sketch. This would provide a one-page overview of a word's most typical behaviour, summarizing the most frequent and significant

ways in which it would combine with other words in text. An experimental version was used during the development of *Macmillan English Dictionary for Advanced Learners* (2002), and before long Word Sketches had become an essential resource in the lexicographer's toolbox. Harnessing Word Sketch technology to a powerful concordancer led to the birth of the Sketch Engine. Under Adam's leadership, this suite of corpus-analysis tools was continuously improved and enhanced, to become an industry-standard package for dictionary publishers as well as for other linguistic undertakings worldwide.

There is much more, and this short account can hardly do justice to Adam's amazing achievements. It is hard to believe that one individual could have done so much in such a short lifetime, and we hope that the Adam Kilgarriff Prize will be a fitting memorial to Adam's life and work.

Details of the Prize – and how to apply for it – can be found at: <http://kilgarriff.co.uk/prize/>.

Michael Rundell

Chair of Trustees, Adam Kilgarriff Prize