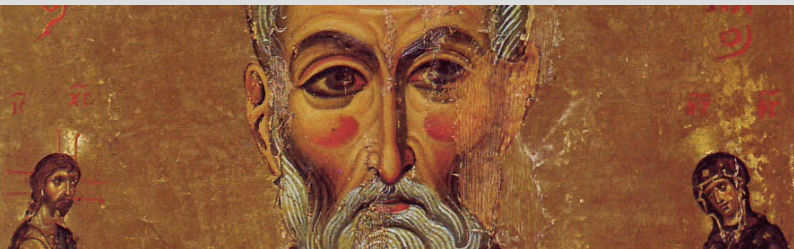


# Bilingual Monthly

a RUEG - bulletin board

1 | 2019



A Happy New Year to everyone @ RUEG and to those interested in our progress!

If this is your first winter in Germany, you may have wondered about the number of bearded men who pop up before and during Christmas, and their sometimes irritating names: Nikolaus, Santa Claus, Knecht Ruprecht, Weihnachtsmann. I think it's safe to say that one of **RUEG**

their predecessors (and namesake) is Saint Nicholas or Νικόλαος Μυριώτης, bishop of the ancient Greek city of Myra in Asia Minor during the reign of the Roman Empire. It is interesting to see how language, image, dates and attribution have evolved over the

last 1500 years! (Interestingly, both interviewees from Russia and the US knew Nikolaus.)

A lot has happened over the last months with data collection underway. We bet that you can tell us a thing or two about it. We would be happy if you'd be willing to share for our next

**RUEG** issue in early March! In this one you get to know Allyn, one of the student RAs in

Potsdam, and a native speaker of American English, our new film project, Tatiana Pashkova from Kaiserlautern, and what we want to change in the field of climate protection. We hope you enjoy our new format!

Greetings from the coordination office of RUEG!

Katrin Neuhaus

## New @ RUEG Potsdam

*How long have you been in German and since when have you worked for RUEG?*

I first came to Germany in 2015 on an exchange from Ohio in the U.S. After a year of living and studying in Berlin I returned to my home university to complete my masters, before



*Nicholas Allyn Heath*

re I headed back in July of 2017. I joined the RUEG team in August after attending a seminar with Heike.

*What are your research interests?*

I study German Studies with an emphasis on literature.

I am interested in the contribution of literature to transcending established societal discourses.

*Is there a German word that you find particularly complicated?*

Because German is well equipped to produce "complicated" words I am not sure there is any one that I would single out. Although, I did recently learn a new word that I find amusing and demonstrative of the German compound words. Strafvollzugsanstalt. That it is also connected to the law is not so surprising.

*Did you leave your boot outside the door on the night of December 6th?*

Of course! At my small catholic school in Chattanooga, Tennessee we did indeed commemorate St. Nicholas on the 6th of December by leaving our shoes in the hallway with the hope that we would be rewarded with a candy cane. I'm not sure how this differs from the tradition here, but I always enjoyed it. Sadly, the tradition did not persist into adulthood, but I'd be open to initiating it in RUEG.

*We will remind you!*

## Filming in Potsdam

Potsdam has been known as a city for film productions for just over a century. The lion's share of early German legendary films like Metropolis (1926) and The Blue Angel (1930) have been made here. Inspired by this heritage and by the good cooperation with the Uni Potsdam's film crew in creating the stimuli and the instructional video we want to dare a new short adventure in this field.

We wondered how to show that language is colorful and diverse? That all people have a broad linguistic repertoire, from which they select different options in different situations?

We are happy to get the actress Pegah Ferydoni (Türkisch für Anfänger, Die defekte Katze) to participate with her rich linguistic repertoire.

In a short scene set in a film studio, she will answer birthday wishes using Persian (her



Pegah Ferydoni @Stefan Klüter

heritage language) and German, in different registers, dialects, and styles that she has acquired in her life. Filming is scheduled for late February. We are really looking forward to it.

## Tatiana Pashkova (P2) from Kaiserslautern

*When did you start working at RUEG? May 1, 2018*

*How would you describe your research to your grandparents - and in what language?*

Since my family is in Russia, I would describe the project in Russian. I'd say that we study bilingual people who grew up speaking two languages and we want to see if the way they speak is the same or slightly different compared to usual monolinguals.

*Which part of your RUEG research project are you most looking forward to?*

I liked the data collection in the US and I'm looking forward



*Tatiana Pashkova @Neuhaus to the second trip in spring.*

*What comes to your mind first when you hear the word "Nikolaus" ?*

I associate Nikolaus with Germany because this is where I learnt about this holiday and with chocolate.

## Climate change @ RUEG

Inspired by an initiative by Gisbert Fanselow, we thought about how our research group can minimize our impact on the environment. Don't we already refrain from disposable tableware? We separate the garbage, we use energy-saving heating settings. What else can we do? Among other things we are discussing the possibility of reducing the number of flights

we take. This is not easy for an international research group with Mercator partners from overseas, but at least within Europe, train travel should become the standard. Because RUEG compensates for higher expenses, train travel could also be the more scenic/pleasant option. Right now we are working on a handout. Please send us your ideas!

## Moving to Berlin

From April 1st, RUEG coordination, P6 und Pd-Potsdam will be at Berlin's Humboldt University. RUEG speaker, Heike Wiese, will assume a professorship for "German in multilingual contexts", leaving the University of Potsdam after 12 years of teaching, researching and having cups of tea with her students and colleagues. We are very much looking forward to our new home at Humboldt. - Yet, we will also miss Potsdam (parks, castles, you

know...) and the friends and colleagues we leave behind, not least P4! Fortunately, the journey is not so far.

And, of course, Pd-Potsdam needs to look for a new name now, because there is already a Pd-Berlin. "Pd-Berlin2"? "Former Pd-Potsdam"?? "The project formerly known as Pd-Potsdam"??? Suggestions welcome!

You will find our new contact details in March, in bbbb's next issue.

## Dates for 2019 (provisional)

27.02-01.03.,  
Potsdam  
**Workshop transcription and annotation, part III**

02.-05.04.,  
Mannheim  
**Retreat code-switching**  
**Retreat corpus searches**  
**Mercator visit**



12.-16.08., Berlin  
**RUEG SUMMER SCHOOL**

17.-20.09., Berlin  
**Retreat word order**  
**Retreat modelling**  
**Register variation**  
**Post-doc meeting**  
**Follow-up proposal**

December, Kaiserslautern  
**Retreat nominal structure**  
**PhD day**

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## Finds from the internet

Nice story about (and interview with) a father who started speaking his native language (Russian) to his English-speaking child, alone in NYC. [psychologytoday.com/intl/blog/life-bilingual/201811/when-parent-is-childs-only-language-source](http://psychologytoday.com/intl/blog/life-bilingual/201811/when-parent-is-childs-only-language-source)

"Verstümmeltes Deutsch mit Kaputtthintergrund" - great blog entry from the theater column of Maxim Gorky Theater by Mely Kiyak in response to recent newspaper articles claiming an „Arabization“ of Berlin. "Mutilated german with broken background". Very funny, if it were not so sad. [kolumne.gorki.de/kolumne-97](http://kolumne.gorki.de/kolumne-97)

"Wir tun so, als seien wir ein einsprachiges Land" - "We pretend that we are a monolingual country". Interview with RUEG speaker Heike Wiese in „Die Welt“ about the demands for compulsory German in families with a migration background. The interview

is in German, the access is restricted. If you want to read it, please contact me. [www.welt.de/vermishtes/plus181509854/Heike-Wiese-ueber-Deutschpflicht-Wir-tun-so-als-seien-wir-ein-einsprachiges-Land.html](http://www.welt.de/vermishtes/plus181509854/Heike-Wiese-ueber-Deutschpflicht-Wir-tun-so-als-seien-wir-ein-einsprachiges-Land.html)

THE BEST PART OF GETTING OLDER IS GONNA BE INTENTIONALLY MISUSING SLANG AROUND TEENAGERS JUST TO WATCH THEM SQUIRM.

OH MAN, THAT SONG IS SO PWNED!



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