

Bilinguals Bimonthly

a RUEG - bulletin board

2 | 2019

Potsdam, March 31, 2019



“They speak other languages. They must speak about me” quoted Lemn Sissay, poet and Chancellor of the University of Manchester, and looked expectantly into the packed lecture hall of the Central Library on February 21, 2019.

Manchester was celebrating International Mother Language Day all over the town with multilingual storytelling, international food, music, crafts, and performances by some supplementary schools.

Lemn Sissay continues: “What kind of ego do you have? Can you imagine these people have nothing better to do than talk about you?” The crowd laughs. “It asks us to ask. Don’t be afraid. Let’s decolonize our minds!”

Hello and welcome to RUEG’s newsletter, bilinguals bimonthly bulletin board, short bbbb. “University Public Engagement with Urban Multilingualism” in Manchester was a conference

to remember, not only because RUEG speaker Heike Wiese, Ulrike Freywald I presented examples from Germany on “Tackling deficit-oriented views on multilingualism”, but also because of a call for a ‘Multilingual Cities Movement’. Find out more on the last page.

Before you get there, see information on our upcoming Summer School. You will also meet RUEG coordinator Esther Jahns, and get some news about our move to Berlin.

All the best from RUEG coordination office, Katrin Neuhaus

Girls at Manchester’s Longsight Library on International Mother Language Day (above), Ben Rampton at the Manchester conference (below)



RUEG Summer School for PhD students

If you are a PhD student (or if you know one) interested in language use and language structure in contact settings, Berlin is the place to be this summer (reasonable fees, too)! **RUEG Summer School will take place from August 12th–16th, 2019 at the Humboldt University** and bring together leading researchers and PhD students interested in language use and language structure in contact settings. Classes will address topics of language contact, language and migration, register variation, language acquisition and multilingualism. Each class will give an overview of milestones in the field and discuss current research topics. In addition, the school will include a seminar on corpus linguistics with a focus on multilingual corpora. The language of the summer school will be English.

Classes and teachers:

Register Variation

Douglas Biber, Northern Arizona University

Language and Migration

Cristina M.M. Flores, Universidade do Minho

Language Acquisition

Natalia Gagarina, Leibniz Centre for General Linguistics, Berlin & Christoph Schroeder, University of Potsdam

Corpus Linguistics

Hagen Hirschmann, Humboldt University, Berlin

Language Contact

Yaron Matras, University of Manchester

Multilingualism

Ad Backus, Tilburg University (to be confirmed)



Summer at HUB

Each participant may attend 3 of the 6 offered classes.

Application:

For application, please send a letter of motivation, a short abstract of your PhD project (max. 500 words), and a CV to heike.wiese@hu-berlin.de

In the letter of motivation, please indicate at least 4 classes which interest you.

Deadline for application is May 1st, 2019.

A notification of acceptance will be sent by May 31st, 2019.

Costs:

100 €. The fee includes participation in 3 classes and coffee breaks.

When did you start working at RUEG? April 1, 2018.

How would you describe RUEG's research to your daughter?

I already described the project to my daughter and for the first time she was interested in what I am doing. She has a strong and genuine interest in other cultures and languages and always resented teachers' rejection of Kiezdeutsch and other non-standard features (without labelling them this way). She even blamed us for being so "boringly monolingual". Therefore, she was open to my explanation on new ways of speaking due to language contact and I am proud to say that she and her German-Turkish bilingual boy-friend participated in the elicitations.

Is your research related to RUEG? Yes, I am researching how Jews in Berlin make use of



Esther Jahns

Yiddish and Hebrew elements when speaking German. So, I am also working on language contact even though with a stronger focus on the social meaning of this variation. And Yiddish, as one of the main donor languages of my informants, is for me the most fascinating example of language contact as languages from four different languages with very diverging structural features had their effect on this wonderful and unique language.

Moving RUEG

As announced in our last bbbb, parts of our research group (coordination, P6 und Pd-Potsdam) are moving to Berlin's Humboldt University where RUEG speaker, Heike Wiese, has assumed a professorship for "German in multilingual contexts". The festive occupation of the premises in Mohrenstr. 40/41 (or Möhrenstr. as we prefer to call it) will take place in a couple of days, on April 1st. Our UP email addresses will still be valid for some time, but if you want to contact our speaker Heike Wiese, please use heike.wiese@hu-berlin.de More detailed information will be distributed soon via the usual channels.



Student assistant Marvin Brink packing in Potsdam

And Pd-Potsdam is still looking for a new name!

Multilingual Cities Movement

On the final day of the „University Public Engagement with Urban Multilingualism“ conference in Manchester an interest was made public to draft a call for a ‘Multilingual Cities Movement’ - a ‘movement’ in the sense of a loose collection of groups and individuals who wish to work together in pursuit of shared goals, but with no central structure or leadership. Why do we think that we need such a movement today and now? Here are some extracts from the draft that has been composed by Ben Rampton, RUEG speaker Heike Wiese, and Yaron Matras:

“Cities are usually places where different languages come together and people switch, mix and blend them. Linguistic plurality and difference are treated as normal – expected, addressed, accepted and enjoyed. But many states, especially in the Global North, now promote linguistic sameness, and regard linguistic di-

versity with hostility and fear. This suspicion inhibits the development of individuals and undermines community.

In a number of places, especially but not exclusively in cities, productive collaborations have developed between universities and local government, communities and organisations, committed to understanding linguistic diversity and developing multilingualism. Our movement seeks to extend these collaborations, both in- and outside cities, in a broad alliance between projects and organisations which aim to build stronger and better social relationships through openness to the opportunities and challenges that linguistic diversity involves.”

If you want to contribute to a discussion forum, we invite you to visit the new Multilingual Manchester blog (<http://mlm.humanities.manchester.ac.uk/blog>); the forum is open to academics, students, practitioners and officials.

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In the media

[Zeit Campus](#) 01/2019, interview with RUEG speaker Heike Wiese on "The struggle for the right words".

www.zeit.de/campus/2019/01/sprache-gendergerecht-politische-korrekttheit-anglizismen-worte-umgang

The access to the article is restricted. Please contact me if you want to read it: katrin.neuhaus@hu-berlin.de.

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