

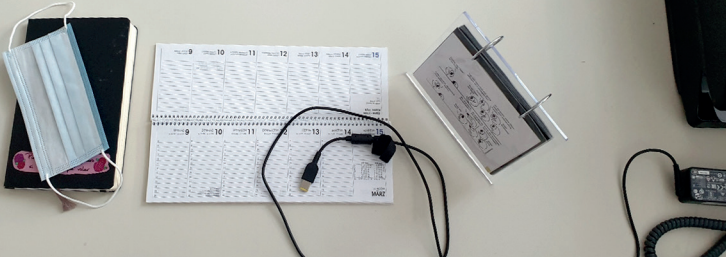
bilinguals bimonthly

a RUEG - bulletin board

2 | 2020

From our homeoffices

9 June 2020



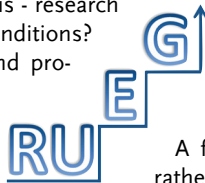
Empty transfer desk in Berlin

© Katrin Neuhaus

That was a close finish in Hamburg! The retreat and the DGfS conference in early March were the last public events to take place before the lockdown. Great relief for our PhD students who had prepared, with great dedication, a workshop on “Variation in heritage languages: Language contact vs. internal developments” for the conference (p. 2)! How was - and still is - research under homeoffice conditions? With researchers and projects in two regions of Germany, and two Mercator fellows in North America, digital communication has always been essential to RUEG. Apart from cancelled elicitations and presentations, the work continues pretty normally for most of us. However, the situation is slightly different for researchers who have to look after children or relatives in need of care, still more women than men. The deputy editor of the British Journal

for the Philosophy of Science tweeted “negligible number of submissions to the journal from women in the last month. Never seen anything like it.” Obviously the hope that research and family are compatible has suffered a small damper during lockdown. Perhaps in the future, with the experience of the lockdown, there will be more flexibility in the use of equality funds for childcare or family care in the event of exceptional circumstances.

A few days ago there was a rather pleasant surprise in form of a poetry reading with US poet Greg Nissan. Originally planned for a room in the university as part of a colloquium, it now took place online and, thanks to video conferencing, became a transatlantic event with lots of spectators on three continents (p. 4). And finally, RUEG’s final conference is approaching! (What? Already?) See more on page 3.



RUEG workshop at DGfS 2020 conference



Kateryna Iefremko, Wintai Tsehaye and Tatiana Pashkova, compiled by KN

Variation in heritage languages: Language contact vs internal developments

This workshop invited speakers to present their research on both heritage and majority languages from different language domains. Presentations were ranging from theoretical grammatical analysis to corpus linguistics, and covering a variety of contact-linguistic settings, acquisition scenarios, and age

groups. The aim was to gain new insights into the dynamics of language variation in contact situations and the modelling of noncanonical structures in the grammatical system.

Organisers: Maria Martynova, Tatiana Pashkova, Vicky Rizou, Yulia Zuban

[Workshop programme](#)

A celebration of multilingualism

“People could certainly make themselves understood beforehand. [...] Here, however, they overcome boundaries between different groups that were marked by language.” At Pentecost, RUEG speaker surprised the readers of “Die Kirche”, arguing that in this story the Bible provides a positive narrative of multilingualism. “Pentecost tells us: Different languages do not form a gap between different speaker groups. We can understand each other if we want to.”

“Die Kirche”, page 3, 31 May 2020



RUEG conference 2021 | Call for Papers

For our final conference in February (21-23) we invite submissions on language contact phenomena from the point of view of linguistic systems (grammatical structure, linguistic architecture), and speakers (competence, choices, sociolinguistic factors). In addition to papers presenting new findings on language contact phenomena, we also welcome methodological papers with a general focus on studying linguistic patterns outside standard language. We will have three thematic sessions dedicated to different aspects of heritage speakers' language production and comprehension, and a poster session. The three thematic sessions will be introduced by invited speakers, followed by commentaries.

1. Attrition vs. Innovation:

What linguistic developments characterise bilingual speakers' productions in heritage and majority languages? Is it possible to detect systematic patterns which could be best analysed as newly emerging grammars, or is it more plausible to speak of attrition?

2. Transfer vs. Internal Dynamics

What impact does language contact have? Is it plausible for certain linguistic patterns to assume direct transfer from one language to another, do non-canonical patterns in heritage speakers' production rather reflect general patterns of language contact, or do they pick up, and possibly generalise, language-internal tendencies that are also evident in monolinguals? What role do different registers play?

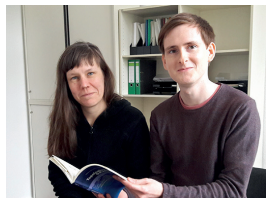
3. Methods in research on patterns outside standard language

How can we best capture linguistic patterns that fall outside formal standard language? What methods in corpus and experimental linguistics are suitable to study speakers' repertoires in general? What methods in corpus and experimental linguistics are suitable to detect and capture possible heritage language grammars or other types of non-standard grammars in particular?

You can find more information on our [conference website](#).

More news of the day

The first dissertation by a RUEG PhD has just been submitted! Oliver Bunk handed in his thesis this morning (09/06/20), titled "Aber immer alle sagen das" The status of V₃ in German: Use, Processing and Syntactic Representation.

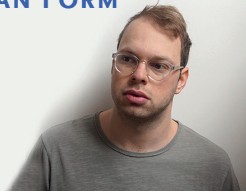


Oliver Bunk (P6, right) in the office with Annika Labrenz (Pd2)

Live poetry on three continents

WRITTEN CITY: POETICS AND URBAN FORM

A transatlantic poetry reading with Greg Nissan
Thursday, June 4, 19:30 (CEST).



Our first transatlantic online poetry reading began on June 4th with an attentive audience from Europe, the US, and Africa! In Boston it was still morning for Greg Nissan. In his works he transforms linguistic phenomena such as code- and language-mixing into poetry, picking up the vibe that urban areas

characterise. His writing has appeared in several journals, like BOMB, where you can find four of his poems. From 2015 to 2016 Greg was a member of the Centre for Language, Variation, and Migration at the University of Potsdam. The reading was followed by a lively question time.

Cartoon

How to: Write Corona guidelines



A person "helps" a Berliner to overcome his uncertainty when writing new Corona guidelines by formulating a text for him in standard German peppered with technical terms that is longer and far less comprehensible than the original sentence in the Berlin dialect. (Inspired by a publication by the Berlin Senate)