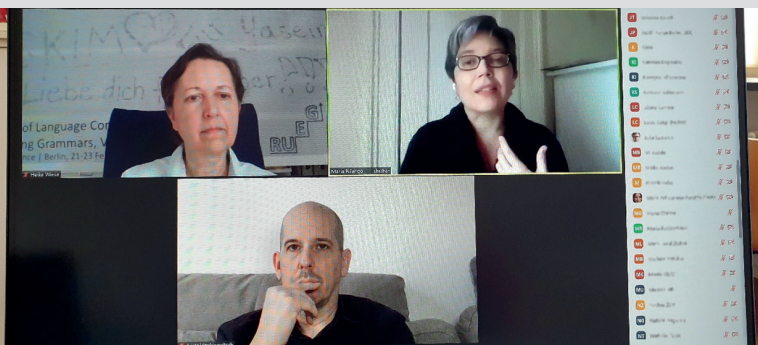


bilingual bimonthly

a RUEG bulletin board

2 | 2021

Berlin, May 31, 2021



Heike Wiese, Maria Piñango and Anatol Stefanowitsch at a roundtable during RUEG's „New Perspectives on Emerging Grammars, Variation and Change“ conference, 21-23 February, 2021 image: KN

“And where will the foyer with the bar tables be? Where will I chat over coffee and biscuits about the last presentation?” Sometimes wheels need to be reinvented, like the wheels that drive the exchange at conferences, once they have to become virtual events.

When in October 2020 RUEG's organising committee decided to hold the conference virtually, hardly anyone had experienced a satisfying virtual event so far.

After trying out different formats, we decided on a combination of Zoom (for the presentations) and Gather-Town (for the informal meetings). But the advantages of a virtual conference already became apparent during the registration process, when three times the anticipated number of participants registered. Participants came from all over the world, while CO₂ consumption remained low. In contrast to conventional con-

ferences, only unfavourable time zones or poor internet could interfere with one's participation. Still no bar tables though - but private spaces, games, and a yoga tree were an acceptable substitute. A big thank you again to everyone who contributed: in the organisation, with their presentations and in the discussions.

Our previous issue bbbb 1/21 was all about the conference. In case you missed that or want to reread, please feel free to [use this link](#).

I would also like to recommend our Twitter diary to you. There you can read all the tweets about [#RUEG2021](#) and relive the event. A special thank you at this point to GeorgeWalkden ([@gwalkden](#)) from Uni Konstanz!

If you are not on Twitter, you can read the Twitter diary with all the entries on our conference website: [Twitter diary](#).

Visiting researcher Yaron Matras

*Yaron Matras is RUEG's current visiting researcher. Via email he kindly answered the same three questions that we always ask at this point.
(Perhaps we will reconsider the first question in later editions. 😊)*

Where do you come from and how long will you stay with us?

In the age of globalisation, the question 'where do you come from' has become somewhat obsolete. But I have spent the past 25 years living and working in Manchester, UK, as Professor of Linguistics; I am now involved in a num-



Yaron Matras

ber of research and consultancy projects internationally, one of them is RUEG. My contact with the project began in the summer of 2019 and is currently virtual, but as soon as travel restrictions are removed I am planning to be a frequent guest in Berlin for stays of several weeks at a time.

How would you describe your research to an older family member - and in what language/register?

Older family members will be interested in what concerts I go to in Berlin and whether I'm getting enough exercise in between my portions of German food. But younger relatives are more likely to take an interest, and I would be trying to explain things to them in colloquial Hebrew, using English phrases for professional terminology, English phrases with a Yiddish accent for sarcastic comments, and German terms to capture key achievement milestones.

Translanguaging, so to speak. Which brings me to the content of my work, which has to do with how multilingual speakers 'manage' repertoires of linguistic resources in conversation.

During your time in Berlin - what are you most looking forward to?

There's loads of people to talk to

both about work and the world at large, people with whom I share interests and values, and I look forward to direct and open conversations, and to the endless list of inspiring settings in Berlin where you can have those conversations; and I really love Kreuzberg and feel so much at home there with the scenes and sounds and tastes and smells and can't wait to have a chance for a walkaround and get together with some wonderful community activists whom I've been in touch with for some years now. (Also, I once had a friend from Spandau who spoke the broadest Berlin dialect imaginable; it's a long shot but just maybe I'll be able to locate her again ..)

Professor Yaron Matras, School of Arts, Languages and Cultures, University of Manchester.

RUEG is involved in a Kiezdeutsch media station for the Inaugural Exhibition "After Nature" in the Humboldt Labor, a 600 m² exhibition hall in the new Humboldt Forum in Berlin.

At the station visitors can test their knowledge of registers and the dialects Kiezdeutsch, Multi-cultural London English and Ber-

linisch. The register test can be answered in Greek, Turkish and Russian, in addition to English and German.

Due to the pandemic the official opening was postponed, and there is still no opening date to announce here. Find all fresh information on this topic on our [website](#) and our next bbbb issue.



RUEG's Oliver Bunk and Pia Linscheid in front of our Kiezdeutsch media station at the Humboldt Forum
image: KN

Changes in RUEG's coordination project Z



Farewell: Coordinator Esther Jahns (left) and transfer manager Katrin Neuhaus (right)
collage: KN

As already mentioned in 1/21, RUEG is one of five research units to receive funding for a second phase from the German Research Foundation (DFG). Research on *Emerging Grammars in Language Contact Situations* will go until 2024 with six exciting new projects!

RUEG's long-term coordinator Esther Jahns and transfer manager (and bbbb inventor) Katrin Neuhaus (=me) will then no longer be part of the team. Esther already started finishing her own dissertation in autumn 2020, and I will do the same in autumn 2021.

RUEG2 will involve a dedicated transfer project at the University of Duisburg-Essen with Judith Purkardhofer.

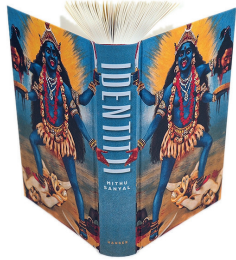
The coordinator position in the new Z project in RUEG2 will be shared by two new scientific staff members, Pia Linscheid and İrem Duman. You will get to know them in the interview for the next issue.

Two new German books for the bedside table

“Mist, die versteht mich ja” (Shit, she understands me) by Florence Borokowski-Shekete. She writes about the role of language and identity in her biography as a German-born black woman - who is now the director of the Hamburg Education Authority (Schulbehörde). A very exciting and also amusing book. - *Britta Schulte*

The novel “Identitti” by Mithu Sanyal is also highly amusing! It is set in German university circles and is about Nivedita, her celebrity professor of postcolonial stud-

ies, Saraswati, and a big fraud. Or was it all on purpose? Everything you always wanted to know about identity but didn't dare ask. Wonderful contemporary storytelling. - *Katrin Neuhaus*



Identitti

picture: Hanser-Verlag

Cartoon



Two people overhear a conversation in which the participants are code-switching. They reject this mixing of the two languages as a bad sign of our times, while ... 500 years earlier, Martin Luther's German-Latin code-switching was interpreted as a sign of scholarship.

All publications and presentations of our projects in Berlin, Potsdam, Duisburg-Essen, Stuttgart, Mannheim, and Kaiserslautern - as well as other RUEG activities - can be found on our [website](#).

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