

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

2 – 4 February 2015, Schloss Ueberstorf (Switzerland)

Multilingualism: acquisition, education, and society

University of Fribourg | Institute of Multilingualism

WINTER SCHOOL 2015

Combining sociolinguistic and psycholinguistic perspectives on multilingual language development

Prof. Ad Backus, Tilburg University (The Netherlands)
Prof. Florian Jaeger, University of Rochester, NY (USA)
Prof. Jason Rothman, University of Reading (UK)

Chair: Prof. Raphael Berthele, University of Fribourg (CH)

Theme

When studying multilingual competence, acquisition, and use, we are engaged in a variety of data-driven research. Field and laboratory research depend in different ways on observation and experimentation. Although they lead to either more qualitative or more quantitative approaches, they both aim at describing the mechanisms and characteristics of acquiring and using more than one language, such as interference, transfer processes in multilingual speakers, or language change in contexts of language contact. This Winter School is dedicated to the crucial questions of how theories and methods from psycholinguistics as well as sociolinguistics can be used to promote a better understanding of the multilingual mind.

A particular emphasis lies on issues related to heritage language maintenance and development in migrant communities. This will be the key subject on Monday. Jason Rothman addresses the importance of differences in input quality and the needs to be factored for when assessing and labelling the competence outcomes in heritage speaker bilingualism. Ad Backus focuses on the respective contributions of sociolinguistics and psycholinguistics for improving linguistic theory, and Florian Jaeger approaches questions of statistical modelling of linguistic data.

Arrangement

The Winter School is designed as an encounter for young and senior multilingualism researchers. In order to stimulate critical and creative thinking, plenty of time will be reserved for the exchange between experts and PhD students who are asked to present their projects in the form of a poster.

Coordination

Dr. Andrea Ender, andrea.ender@unifr.ch

Options of participation

Option 1: Whole Winter School from Monday to Wednesday

Option 2: Monday only: Workshop on the key topic "Heritage language maintenance and development"

Fees

There are no participation fees. The PhD programme of Fribourg will pay for the trip to Ueberstorf from collaborating home universities (Fribourg, Berne, and Lausanne), accommodation (shared double rooms), and meals during the Winter School.

Application and admission

Inscriptions from PhD students from the University of Fribourg or partner institutions will be considered with priority. Students from other institutions may also apply. The number of PhD students will be limited to 15 participants. Students who want to attend the whole Winter School will be expected to stay in residence the entire three days.

Interested candidates should send an email including their motivation and the topic of their PhD project to andrea.ender@unifr.ch.

📌 **Deadline: 3 October 2014**