

CSLS doctoral workshop
Language, dialect and periphery

University of Bern, 13th–15th December 2018



*Center for the Study of
Language and Society (CSLS),
University of Bern
Muesmattstrasse 45
3012 Bern*

PLENARY TALKS

Anita Auer

University of Lausanne

Thursday 13.12.2018, 09:30–10:30 (Uni S, A-119)

The Glarus Dialect in the American Midwest

During the so-called “Age of Mass Migration” (1850-1920s), many Swiss people left their home in search of betterment elsewhere. One destination was North America, where, for instance, the colony of New Glarus was founded in Wisconsin in 1845. The settlement has retained its Swiss identity until today, being known as *America’s Little Switzerland*, but did it also retain the Glarus dialect?

In this talk, I will first sketch the socio-economic history of the settlement and then shed light on the maintenance and/or development of the Glarus dialect in the diaspora over time. To this end, I will consider (a) recordings from the 1960s of heritage speakers born as early as the late 1800s (now held in the Max Kade Institute for German-American Studies, Madison) and (b) findings from a *Dialäkt Äpp* study that we carried out in New Glarus in 2016. This will allow me to draw some conclusions regarding the development of the Glarus dialect in the diaspora as well as to determine factors that affected the development.

Göz Kaufmann

University of Freiburg (i. Br.)

Thursday 13.12.2018, 16:00–17:00 (Uni S, A-119)

Pomeranians in Brazil: Some Socio-Linguistic Facts

In the 1850s, Pomeranians from *Hinterpommern* (nowadays Northwest Poland) emigrated to different regions in Brazil. Today, most of their descendants live in the Southern states of Rio Grande do Sul and Santa Catarina, in Espírito Santo and, due to internal migration in the 1970s, in the rather young state of Rondônia. Totalling roughly 200,000 speakers, Pomeranians constitute the second biggest German-speaking group in Brazil, only losing to Hunsrückish in this respect. Aside from this, Brazil is the last country where dialects from *Hinterpommern* are still spoken by a robust number of people. In Europe, these dialects have been lost because almost all Pomeranians were expelled from Poland after World War II. In Australia and especially in the United States, the preferred destination for Pomeranian migrants, the settlers and their descendants switched to English rather quickly.

Pomeranians in Brazil are peripheral in several respects. From a European point of view, the migrants who emigrated to Brazil instead of the United States, settled in a geographically more peripheral country. From a Brazilian point of view, they constituted and partly still constitute a peripheral minority group due to their language and their faith. Almost all Pomeranians are Lutherans. Crucially, their peripheral status became even more marked when Getúlio Vargas implemented strict language laws during the time of the *Estado Novo* (1937–1945). These laws prohibited the use of Standard German as a medium of instruction in the well-developed German school system and they also prohibited the use of German (dialects) as a medium of communication in the public sphere.

In my presentation, I will first concentrate on the current sociolinguistic situation of Pomeranian (speakers) in Brazil. In this respect, it is noteworthy that Pomeranian has recently found its way into the public school system and has even gained a co-official status in the municipality of Santa Maria de Jetibá in Espírito Santo. In spite of these successes, the actual number of speakers of Pomeranian continues to decrease, a fate this variety shares with most Brazilian minority languages. In a second part, I will discuss some striking lexical and syntactic

developments in Pomeranian. The fact that this variety lost its Standard German roof eighty years ago seems to have made it more receptive for Portuguese loans and also seems to have unleashed syntactic changes that defy crucial theoretical assumptions about the syntactic structure of Continental West Germanic varieties.

Marie Maegaard

University of Copenhagen and University of Bern (CSLS)

Friday 14.12.2018, 16:00–17:00 (Unitobler, F012)

The value of peripheral dialect in restaurant and food encounters

Authenticity and authentication are central concepts in understandings of what has been given labels like *late capitalism* (Duchêne/Heller 2012), *advanced capitalism* (Pietikäinen et al. 2016) or *global capitalism* (Cavanaugh/Shankar 2014). Due to this, authenticity and authentication has received much sociolinguistic attention over the last decade. Since authentication is often viewed as strongly related to capitalism, it has proven particularly rewarding to turn the gaze to situations of commercial exchange. On the market, authenticity can be used as added value through meaning dimensions like grounding in history, tradition and territory, less mediated connections between producer and consumer, etc. (Cavanaugh/Shankar 2014; Coupland/Coupland 2014; Heller 2014; Pietikäinen et al. 2016; Weiss 2016).

In most sociolinguistic studies, authentication is studied in front-stage encounters (Goffman 1959) between producers and consumers, or sellers and buyers; or authenticity is pointed to as a relevant concept on the basis of analyses of particular products (menu cards, souvenir cups, jewelry, t-shirts, etc.). At the same time, commercial encounters and products are (frequently) designed and well prepared by the producer or seller, and perhaps even orchestrated by professionals in the marketing and branding sector. In this talk, I take a sociolinguistic perspective on a restaurant setting where the preparatory work includes the creation of a universe of interpretation (Karrebæk/Maegaard 2017; Manning 2012). This work takes place in a backstage area where the ‘audience’ – or the guests – are not present. Data include self-recordings of staff members in a high-end restaurant, which brands itself as *Bornholmian*. This label points towards a particular location, the small Danish island Bornholm in the Baltic Sea, as its universe of interpretation. Linguistically, the traditional Bornholm dialect differs significantly from other varieties of Danish. It is easily recognized, and can therefore be used as an index of Bornholmness.

In my talk I will focus on the development of a pre-dinner cocktail – “The Bornholmian Cocktail”. The creation of the cocktail includes negotiations between owner and staff of ingredients, serving, and glass design, and it is all connected to the general aim of creating a recognizable *Bornholmian* product. Here, dialect contributes in crucial ways in discussions of authenticity and ultimately appears as an index of Bornholmness in the design of the cocktail glass. This embellishes the Bornholmian experience and gives it a visible representation and a presence in the moment of serving, a scene which is also carefully thought out. The analyses show how the potentiality of authenticity is created backstage in a contemporary commercial enterprise, and how dialect becomes a crucial aspect of this endeavor – even though what counts as authentic Bornholmian dialect is not a given, but rather negotiated among the staff.

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Péter Maitz

University of Bern

Saturday 15.12.2018, 11:00–12:00 (Unitobler, F012)

Living on the Edge

Unserdeutsch (Rabaul Creole German) oder das Schicksal einer Sprachgemeinschaft an der gesellschaftlichen und linguistischen Peripherie

Keine Frage: Wenn man das sog. geschlossene deutsche Sprachgebiet in Europa als das Zentrum der deutschsprachigen Welt ansieht, kann man leicht zum Schluss gelangen, dass die unterschiedlichen extraterritorialen Varietäten des Deutschen an die Peripherie der Germania und somit auch der germanistischen Linguistik gehören. Doch dieser Schluss ist falsch. Die unterschiedlichsten als L1 tradierten Auswanderervarietäten des Deutschen (Texas German, Zimbrisch in Italien, Pennsylvania German etc.) werden im Rahmen der sog. deutschen Sprachinselforschung mittlerweile seit Jahrzehnten intensiv erforscht. Anders ist jedoch die Situation in Bezug auf die deutschbasierten kolonialen Kontaktvarietäten wie Kiche Duits in Namibia (Deumert 2009) oder Unserdeutsch in Papua-Neuguinea (Maitz/Volker 2017), die im Rahmen von katastrophentypischen Entstehungsszenarien aus dem kolonialzeitlichen Sprachkontakt hervorgegangen sind. Diese Sprachen waren bis in die jüngste Vergangenheit hinein tatsächlich an der letzten Peripherie linguistischen Interesses in der Sprachwissenschaft, weitgehend unbeachtet, unerforscht, vielleicht sogar auch verschwiegen. Und so wie diese Sprachen bis vor kurzem ein peripheres Dasein unter dem Tellerrand der Linguistik führten, so war auch ihren Sprechern ein Schicksal an der Peripherie (post-)kolonialer Gesellschaften beschied. In meinem Vortrag werde ich am Beispiel von Unserdeutsch (Rabaul Creole German) in Papua-Neuguinea die unterschiedlichen Dimensionen, Hintergründe und Folgen der peripheren Situation kolonialer Varietäten und Sprachgemeinschaften zu beleuchten versuchen. Ein besonderer Fokus wird dabei auf dem anthropologischen Kontext dieser Sprachgemeinschaften sowie ihrer linguistischen Erforschung liegen. Es wird aufzuzeigen sein, wie politische und sprachliche Ideologien zur Invisibilisierung von Sprachen und Sprachgemeinschaften führen können – und welche Folgen dies für menschliche Schicksale wie auch für den linguistischen Erkenntnisfortschritt haben kann.

Literatur

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Malene Monka
University of Copenhagen
Friday 14.12.2018, 08:45–09:45 (Unitobler, F012)

Dialect and place are always in a state of becoming – the case of Southern Jutland, Denmark

Denmark is often portrait as one of the countries in Europe where processes of standardization is most advanced (e.g. Pedersen 2003, 2005). However, the results of the *Dialect in the Periphery* project, which compare dialect leveling in three peripheral areas of Denmark nuances these findings. Quantitative analyses of dialect use across three generations in Northern Jutland, Southern Jutland and on the island of Bornholm show, that traditional dialect variants are no longer used by the young participants in Northern Jutland and on Bornholm, but the young participants from the five Southern Jutlandic families do in fact use dialect to a degree that resembles that of their parents and grandparents (Maegaard/Monka forthc.).

In the talk I am going to focus on a sub-study of the Southern Jutlandic field site (Monka forthc.). The study encompasses quantitative analyses of the language use of the whole year group of 28 young participants, qualitative analyses of attitudes towards the dialect expressed in sociolinguistic interviews, and ethnographic observations of everyday life and language use at school. Not surprisingly, the quantitative analyses of all young participants' language use disclose a more complex picture than that of the five included in the family study: Some use local variants almost exclusively, others use next to none, and some are code switchers and use both. The qualitative analyses of attitudes to the dialect reveal an overall positive sentiment regarding the dialect, albeit it becomes clear that the area where it can be used unmarked seems to be limited to the school district and some considers it a disadvantage to speak dialect when entering the romantic marked place. The ethnographic observations revealed that Southern Jutlandic dialect is used unmarked in the everyday lives at school both in lessons and during recess; a result which is highly surprising when compared to observations in schools in other Danish dialect areas (e.g. Schønning 2016; Maegaard et al. forthc.).

To explain these findings I argue that we need to incorporate a humanistic geographic understanding of place. Only by taking into account the particular history of Southern Jutland and the central role given to the dialect in this history, one can explain the widespread and unmarked use of dialect in the data. However, as stated by Pred (1985) place is always in a state of becoming, which again affects language use (Britain 2002). When comparing attitudes towards the dialect across the three generations, it becomes clear that the positive attitudes towards the dialect is increasingly contested and challenged by societal changes that have happened during the lifetimes of the three generations; changes which entail that the area where the dialect can be used unmarked has changed dramatically.

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SECTION TALKS

Sandro Bachmann
 University of Zurich
 Friday 14.12.2018, 15:00–15:30 (Unitobler, F012)

The most peripheral peripheries: Bosco/Gurin (and other Walser language islands)

In the 13th and 14th centuries, a group of people (i.e. the Walser) left Valais and settled on the other side of the alps ending up in Italy. The southernmost Walser settlements in Italy and Ticino are special in a way that they represent the Southern border of the Germanic dialect continuum. They are surrounded by Romance varieties and, thus, show a considerable amount of contact induced differences in respect to their ancestral variety (i.e. Valais German) as well as a number of conservative features only preserved in Valais German (cf. e.g. Bohnenberger 1913; Zürcher 1999).

Apart from these intralinguistic characteristics, the sociolinguistic situation in Walser language islands is very different from the one in other Germanic speaking communities.

In my talk I will focus on the dialect of Bosco/Gurin, which is the only German speaking settlement in the Canton of Ticino. It has been isolated from surrounding areas until the early 20th century (cf. Pauli Falconi 2004).

First, I will give an overview on the sociolinguistic situation in Bosco/Gurin, and discuss how isolation and peripherality (in both linguistic and geographical space) of Walser language islands contribute to their (socio)linguistic situation.

Second, I will address the question, why Bosco/Gurin has successfully preserved its Walser German variety despite the following obstacles (among others):

- An overproportional decrease of Walser German speakers in respect to the numbers of total inhabitants (cf. tab. 1).
- Walser German only being one out of five varieties (Walser German, “Swiss German”¹, Standard German, Ticinese, Standard Italian) competing in a well-marked polyglossic situation (cf. Stähli 2011: 220–221; Glaser/Bachmann forthc.).

year	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2000	1990	1980	1970
inhabitants	50	55	52	52	56	51	50	48	71	58	65	116
G speakers	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	23	35	61	95
G speakers [%]	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	32%	60%	94%	82%

Tab. 1 – number of inhabitants and German speakers in Bosco/Gurin TI (BfS 2018; Stähli 2011: 219)

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¹ In this case Swiss German is rather a Swiss German koiné (cf. Stähli 2011: 220).

Andrin Buehler

University of Bern

Saturday 15.12.2018, 09:30–10:00 (Unitobler, F012)

Obersaxen – From the periphery of the periphery to a skiing centre

When researching a *Sprachinsel* situated in the periphery of the periphery, i.e. in the altitudes of an outlying valley, it seems obvious that the people living there must be isolated to quite some degree. However, it is exactly these remote places far up in the mountains that were turned into centres of snow sports and more lately also into vibrant hiking centres through upcoming tourism. This means that the idea of isolation needs to be revisited. The presentation will therefore deal with the history of such a place, namely Obersaxen, which is situated in the most-western part of Grisons, and argue that dramatic socio-economic developments as well as fast-arising bilingualism among the surrounding Romansh population have paved the way for the distinct Highest Alemannic variety spoken there coming into enhanced contact with other Swiss German dialects.

In the first part, the so-called *Walserwanderungen* of the 12–14th century will be outlined, focusing on how Obersaxen came into existence as a German-speaking commune in the midst of the Romansh-speaking territory. Further, it will be discussed why the term “Sprachinsel” (cf. e.g. Rosenberg 2003) is today not fully accurate anymore. In a next step, the commune’s history of the last century will be revised more thoroughly by looking at the development of touristic infrastructure (such as ski-lifts, hotels, holiday apartments etc.) which goes along with more and more people being employed in the tertiary sector. So, it will be shown how Obersaxen, once a conglomerate of several farming villages, became a well-known skiing and holiday resort, leading to a massive influx of tourists from more urbanised areas of Switzerland, who, after all, speak different High Alemannic dialects.

Finally, it is discussed how the enhanced contact with other Swiss German varieties has manifested itself linguistically. For this reason, some results of a pilot study that was conducted by aid of an online-questionnaire will be presented; by adopting a real-time approach, i.e. comparing the results with the data of the *Sprachatlas der deutschen Schweiz (SDS)*, which dates back to a time when Obersaxen had no winter-sport infrastructure at all, it was shown that the phonological level has remained very stable. In contrast, the morphological and (morpho-) syntactic levels show signs of changes that can possibly be attributed to extra-linguistic factors (i.e. contact with other dialects). Given the limited number of variables, the quite surprising stability of the phonological level needs further empirical support in a follow-up variationist study that examines actual language-in-use – a project which is currently underway.

References

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A rural region in the catchment area of Basel: dialect convergence or divergence?

Regions are not only formed through institutional or economic pressure, but also through the everyday routines of their inhabitants. Such mundane mobility, largely neglected in dialectology until recently, leads to dialect contact and consequently dialect change (cf. Britain 2010, 2013). Furthermore, inhabitants do not only form a region through their social practices, but also by linking linguistic forms with regions – a correlation which perceptual dialectology aims to uncover (cf. Auer 2013; Christen 2015).

The empirical SNF-project “Auswirkungen regionaler Identitätsbildung auf die Sprache im Spannungsfeld einer Grossstadt” was initiated at the university of Fribourg in April 2017 and is investigating these matters in bi-cantonal Laufental-Thierstein, a rural region in the catchment area of the city of Basel. Within the past fifty years, this region has been established from above due to economic and political developments across cantonal borders, but whether this area is indeed perceived as one region by its population is as yet unknown. Due to major changes in infrastructure within the last few decades, the mobility practices of the inhabitants of Laufental-Thierstein have immensely changed within the rural region as well as with regard to Basel. The impacts that this increase in mobility, especially commuting, and the resulting contact have on the language is a focal point of the present project. How do the inhabitants of rural Laufental-Thierstein (re-)establish their regional and linguistic identity between adaption to and dissociation from the city? And how much of an impact do the increased mobility and intensified contact with the city have on the language of the autochthonous citizen? How do the inhabitants themselves perceive their (dialectal) environment?

72 sociolinguistic interviews (cf. Labov 1984) with three generations have been conducted in the region in order to discuss these research questions. Additionally, as part of the interviews, the informants performed a picture elicitation task as well as a draw-a-map task (cf. Preston 1989) and participated in an in-group test (cf. Schiesser 2017). Phonological variables are analyzed with regard to social factors such as age, gender, commuters vs. non-commuters, and are compared to the *Sprachatlas der deutschen Schweiz (SDS)* for a real-time analysis. This talk will introduce the current research project and present some preliminary results.

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Sarah Grossenbacher
University of Bern
Thursday 13.12.2018, 14:00–14:30 (Uni S, A-119)

Dialectology between candyfloss stalls and dodgems

This project aims to investigate the previously undescribed English variety spoken by Travelling Showpeople in England. Travelling Showpeople are a cultural group who live a nomadic lifestyle due to their occupation which mainly entails operating travelling funfairs. Despite the fact that funfairs are an important event in the calendar of most English towns and cities, very little is known about the community behind the candyfloss stalls or dodgems. They are described as an extremely close-knit, family-centred community who have little contact with the settled population.

Why is it important to analyse a dialect spoken by a community “operating on the fringes of society” (Toulmin 2003: 61)? Firstly, English dialectology has tended to shun nomadic speakers since they are often not deemed to represent authentic speakers of a place. Despite the existence of various nomadic groups in England, there has always been a strong focus on geographical continuity and local embeddedness, although studies on nonlocal mobile members of the community have highlighted their importance in influencing and understanding language change (e.g. Cheshire/Kerswill/Fox/Torgersen 2011; Horvath 1985, summarised in Britain 2016). The study of the Showpeople's dialect allows us to analyse the influence of routine forms of mobility on the establishment of community dialect norms. Secondly, the Travelling Showpeople are a relatively isolated community with a distinctive lifestyle. Analysing their dialect will enable us to theorise to what extent such speakers are able to acquire sedentary dialect norms and how language change enters such communities and is transmitted from one generation to the next.

Here, I will briefly introduce you to this research project. In particular, I will present, question and discuss the methodological practicalities of it.

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Martina Heer
University of Bern
Friday 14.12.2018, 14:00–14:30 (Unitobler, F012)

Annen, Betschen, Grossen, Kuhnen, Wyssen – the Swiss-German surnames formed by genitive and their distribution in Switzerland

Present-day Swiss-German surnames based on given names or nicknames formed by weak genitive inflection (such as *Barben*, *Clausen*, *Krummen*, *Franzen*, *Rothen* or *Tschannen*) are much more frequent than those formed by strong genitive (e.g. *Arnitz*, *Raths*, *Wirths*). Likewise, the patro- or matronymic conformation with *Sohn* are uncommon and exist exclusively in the surnames *Annasohn*, *Ittensohn* and *Nessensohn*.

According to the Register of Swiss Surnames, the distribution area of the surnames formed by weak genitive inflection is mainly located in the western part of Switzerland, namely in the

Cantons of Berne, Fribourg and Valais. They are evenly spread along the language border between the German- and the French-speaking parts of Switzerland.

This paper uses historical name-data from Bernese rentals dating from the 16th century to discuss the genitive inflection in Swiss-German surnames.

It aims to show which forms of inflection in the names were common in the western periphery of the Swiss-German speaking part of Switzerland in a time when surnames became stable. This reflection of the surname landscape in said area in its present state is also of interest.

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Hannah Hedegard

University of Bern

Friday 14.12.2018, 09:45–10:15 (Unitobler, F012)

“We’re not even anywhere /NEAR/ Australia”: post-colonial English on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands

According to Mufwene’s Founder Principle, in the early stages of language contact in a colonial setting the features of the original settler group’s English are selected by the indigenous group over latecomers (Mufwene 1986). Research that has applied this notion, as well as other theories in new dialect formation such as Schneider’s Dynamic Model (2007), to the linguistic narratives of post-colonial English speaking communities have consistently involved a British or American settler strand and been of a post-hoc large scale nature, glossing over linguistically, ecologically and sociologically nuanced processes that occur along the way when speakers are faced with a feature pool dilemma. Here I present a study that captures the initial stages of the recent acquisition of English by a remote Indian ocean community via contact with several waves of mainland Australian speakers of marginally different varieties.

The geographically and socio-politically peripheral Cocos (Keeling) Islands are home to five hundred Cocos-Malay people, the descendants of Malay and Javanese slaves, and were integrated into Australia in 1984, leading to an abrupt and aggressive introduction of English. The generations born since mandatorily complete high school in Perth, Western Australia, but for an initial period of almost two decades the mainland English teachers sent there to teach the Cocos Malays were east-coast Australians.

This preliminary study exposes the effects of contact with two contrasting varieties, Western and Eastern Australia, on this emerging Anglophone community through a comprehensive analysis of *NEAR* vowel tokens produced by forty Cocos Malay people in sociolinguistic interviews in 2016. A disyllabic production of *NEAR* is commonly recognised as one of the few phonological shibboleths for Western Australian English, as a monophthong realisation is usual in other parts of Australia (Cox 2012). Compounding factors discussed in this paper

include the absence of diphthongs in the substrate language, Cocos Malay, as well as identity pulls and mobility patterns between the atoll and Perth.

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Dominique B. Hess

University of Bern

Friday 14.12.2018, 11:15–11:45 (Unitobler, F012)

The quotative system in Saipanese English: Contrasting profiles of *be like* and *zero*

This paper examines the use of quotatives in the English spoken in Saipan. While multiple investigations of the quotative system in L1 varieties exist, studies on L2 varieties (for example Hong Kong, Jamaica, Philippine or Singapore English (D'Arcy 2013)) using the ICE corpora are in their relative infancy. I investigate the diffusion of this globalized and rapidly changing variable and how it is embedded in a geographically peripheral, multilingual, multicultural, and mobile community with a nativizing English variety.

Saipan is the largest of 14 islands in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, located in the north-western Pacific Ocean. English became a community language in Saipan when the US began its administration post-WWII. The two indigenous communities, the Chamorros and Saipan Carolinians, each have their own language, yet mostly use English as a lingua franca. Consequently, Saipan is shifting from an English as an L2 to an English as an L1 community.

Variationist methods are used to compare the quotative system of Saipanese English with what we know about other L1 and L2 varieties. The data consist of a subset of a corpus collected in 2015: Out of 95 conducted sociolinguistic interviews with indigenous speakers ranging in age from 12-79 years, 32 speakers were analyzed in detail for this study. Results from a mixed-effects logistic regression model in *R* reveal linguistic constraints similar to those highlighted for other, mostly central, Englishes: E.g. Toronto English (Tagliamonte/D'Arcy, 2007), American English, English English and New Zealand English (Buchstaller/D'Arcy, 2009). The use of *be like* is favored with the historical present, thought, first grammatical person, and mimesis. This study, furthermore, focuses on the complex and under-researched social factors that influence quotative choice in peripheral L2 settings. From the Saipan data I investigated not only the well-known factors of speaker sex and age, but also the mobility histories, ethnic backgrounds and occupations of the speakers.

Results reveal that mobility is one of the key factors influencing the choice of a quotative: Half of all *be like* tokens were produced by speakers who had spent a considerable time, seven years and above, off-island (six out of the 32 speakers (19%) fall into this category). Furthermore, *be like* correlates with Chamorro ethnicity, students and white-collar workers. Interestingly, the *zero* quotative is the second most frequent variant in the Saipan data set. This variant is preferred in the speech of Carolinians and blue-collar workers. In addition, these two social factors also correlate with a lower mobility rate. This study, therefore, shows how the global innovative quotative variant *be like* is adopted into an emerging contact variety of English in the periphery and how complex interactions of social factors shape the choice of the *be like* or *zero* quotative locally.

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Eva Kuske

University of Bern

Friday 14.12.2018, 11:45–12:15 (Unitobler, F012)

“My grandpa is old school” – Generational Development from a Peripheral to an Americanized Variety, Reflected in Guam English Front Vowels

The island of Guam, located in the North-Western Pacific, has been under continuous American rule for the majority of a century. As a result, the inhabitants have undergone a shift from speaking the indigenous language, Chamorro, as a first language to a mostly monolingual community of English speakers. This change happened over just a few generations. The development of the English dialect on this remote island are highly salient and reflect an increased contact with the United States. The older generations still show peripheral dialect features while the younger, nativized speakers have converged much closer to an American variety.

How this rapid linguistic change has affected the English dialect spoken on the island is at this point still under-researched. I attempt to shed more light on the development and apparent time change in Guam English with my analysis of a group of English-speaking Chamorros between the ages of 16 and 91. The short front vowels (KIT, DRESS, TRAP) and two reference vowels (FLEECE, FACE) were chosen as a particularly insightful language feature to reflect this development away from a peripheral dialect. The vowels were measured in an automated process using FAVE Align and FAVE Extract (Rosenfelder et al. 2014). The results of a Mixed Effects Model performed in R (R Core Team 2016) show that *Age*, in connection with other social factors, significantly influences the production of these vowels. This functions as one of many examples of how the process of English nativization on the island has brought about highly salient generational difference in Guam English speakers.

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Sara Lynch

University of Bern

Friday 14.12.2018, 10:45–11:15 (Unitobler, F012)

Changing Centres and Peripheries: Hawaiian English effects on Kosraean English

Peripheral sites are generally defined by their geographic and economic relationship with a centre. These peripheries and centres are in constant shift and defined in respect to various factors, including power and advancement (Pietikäinen/Kelly-Holmes 2013). For many Pacific islands, the US and Australia are often considered to be the most obvious central site for

comparison. In this paper, I make the argument that for the island of Kosrae, Hawai'i is constructed as a central linguistic site.

The data to support the study comes from a sociolinguistic corpus of interviews recorded on the Pacific island of Kosrae during three months of summer 2015. Despite virtually no Hawaiian immigration to the island of Kosrae, evidence of Hawaiian English features emerging in Kosraean English appear across phonological, morphosyntactic and lexical domains. I explore this phenomenon through the lens of centre-periphery dynamics, applying national statistics and evidence from conversations on the island.

Kosrae is the smallest and most remote of the four island-states that make up the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM). The rather isolated Pacific island lies 600km north of the equator with thousands of kilometres in each direction to the closest large urban centres of Guam or Hawai'i. Both English and the substrate language of Kosraean are official languages on the island, and many locals communicate in English on a daily basis.

The island has endured a complex colonial past; however, recent projects and pacts mainly supported by the United States have sought to aid development on the island. Such measures include the introduction of the Pell Grant in 1979, which provides students the opportunity to complete higher education abroad, and the Compact of Free Association, which has allowed freedom of movement for the islanders to live, work and study since 1986. These acts have contributed to mass emigration, particularly with the educated, younger members of the community.

Hezel's (2012) migrant survey results illustrate that approximately 16,800, or one-third of the total number of FSM citizens abroad, were born in the US. Whilst members of other FSM states migrate to the Pacific urban hubs of Guam and Hawai'i in effectually equal numbers, Kosraeans favour Hawai'i alone with over a third of those moving abroad choosing to relocate there. Many participants in the Kosraean English corpus spent years in Hawai'i before moving back to Kosrae, and this practice is representative of a large part of the island community.

Here, I explain the centralisation of Hawai'i due to economic and social effects and power dynamics. Within this framework, I then connect salient features of Hawaiian English with those emerging in the Kosraean English variety based on previous research on Hawaiian English (Reinecke/Aiko Tokimasa 1934; Drager 2012; Grama 2015).

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Mateusz Maselko
University of Geneva
Saturday 15.12.2018, 10:30–11:00 (Unitobler, F012)

Progressivität im Riograndenser Hunsrückisch: Funktionalität und Variation

Der Vortrag ist thematisch im Spannungsfeld von Variationslinguistik, Kontaktlinguistik, Sprachinselforschung („German-Abroad-Forschung) wie Syntax und Semantik angesiedelt und widmet sich einem (westmittel)deutschen „Sprachinsel“-Dialekt in Südbrazilien – sog. Riograndenser Hunsrückisch. Das Rahmenthema der Präsentation bildet dabei der Ausdruck von Progressivität.

Im Fokus steht der *am*-Progressiv (z. B. *Ech sinn am lese* ‚Ich bin am lesen‘), dessen Funktion darin besteht, eine Handlung oder ein Geschehen aus der internen Perspektive, also im Verlauf befindlich, ohne zeitlichen Rahmen und als (noch) nicht abgeschlossen, darzustellen. Als weitere potentielle Progressivausdrücke des Deutschen werden dafür je nach Forschungsliteratur (oft nicht unumstritten) Konstruktionen mit *beim*, *dabei zu*, *im* und *tun* genannt. Nicht alle von ihnen sind im Riograndenser Hunsrückisch allerdings (frequent) vertreten. Zum Teil werden sie mit zusätzlichen semantischen Merkmalen verbunden: So etwa die periphrastische *tun*-Konstruktion fungiert nicht nur als Hinweis auf eine aktuelle, augenblicklich stattfindende Handlung, sondern kann auch für habituelle Vorgänge und Akte stehen (z. B. *Ti tuut met mia schaffe* ‚Er tut mit mir arbeiten‘ oder *Te tuut kuut Espanhol spreche* ‚Er tut gut Spanisch sprechen‘). Anzumerken ist, dass im Deutschen (und seinen Dialekten) die Progressivität im Gegensatz etwa zum Englischen nicht obligatorisch ausgedrückt wird, sodass durchaus auch eine einfache Verbform als alternative Ausdrucksweise zum Einsatz kommen kann. Die progressive Semantik wird dabei gehäuft durch die Verwendung des Temporaladverbials *groot* ‚gerade‘ unterstützt.

Der Vortrag wird durch folgende Fragestellungen geleitet: 1) Wie häufig werden der *am*-Progressiv gegenüber den o. g. „konkurrierenden“ Alternativkonstruktionen im Riograndenser Hunsrückisch benützt? 2) Welche (formal – syntaktisch und semantisch – determinierten) intra- bzw. (sozial determinierten) extralinguistischen Faktoren (und in welchem Ausmaß) steuern die (Nicht-)Wahl einer bestimmten Progressiv-Konstruktionen? 3) Wie steht es um die areal-horizontale Distribution der Verlaufsformen in den sog. „alten“ und „neuen Kolonien“ des südbrazilianischen „Sprachinsel“-Gebiets? 4) Welche Thesen lassen sich beim Datenvergleich mit dem westmitteldeutschen „Ursprungs“-Gebiet ableiten? 5) Welche Methoden zeigen sich als bes. geeignet, um die (dialektale) Progressivität zu erheben bzw. was ist aus dem Vergleich der mittels unterschiedlicher (direkter und indirekter) Methoden gewonnenen Daten zu schlussfolgern?

Rob Potter
University of Essex
Thursday 13.12.2018, 14:30–15:00 (Uni S, A-119)

Problematising the urban-rural continuum in a sociolinguistic setting: the case of Suffolk, UK

The urban hierarchical/gravity model of linguistic diffusion (as described by, for example, Trudgill 1986; Britain 2006) is partly predicated on an assumption that urban areas are inherently more linguistically innovative than rural areas (see for example Piercy 2007). However recent work by Britain (e.g. 2009, 2013), and also Potter (2018), has questioned this assumed correlation between the classification of a community along an urban-rural continuum and its speakers' use of linguistic variables – arguing that there is no reason why rural communities cannot sometimes be more linguistically innovative than their urban counterparts (and vice

versa), despite their respective misleading stereotypes of ‘backwaters’ versus ‘where it’s all happening’.

This paper will examine the above assumption through analysis of present tense verbal -s marking among 72 participants; split evenly across three varyingly peripheral English-speaking communities (one urban, one rural, and one intermediate) in the county of Suffolk, UK. The paper will argue that the somewhat problematic and arbitrary classification of a community as urban or rural plays less of a role in explaining the variation uncovered than the factor of ‘place’ – defined here as the specific social and political environment unique to each community under investigation; alongside relevant linguistic constraints for any given variable. By taking into account these unique social circumstances in each of the communities, the paper will explain why the least peripheral and most urban location, Ipswich, was found to behave similarly to the most rural and peripheral location, Wickham, in the use of verbal -s marking; with the intermediate community, Woodbridge, the most innovative – contrary to what the gravity model would seem to predict.

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Christa Schneider,
University of Bern
Friday 14.12.2018, 14:30–15:00 (Unitobler, F012)

Alemannic – a small dialect group in new circumstances

Taking a closer look at the German language and dialect situation, the Alemannic dialects have been considered as peripheral varieties in more than one sense. Being spoken on the very southern borders of Germany, within parts of France and Austria but mainly in Switzerland, the Alemannic dialects mark the very end of the German language area. Furthermore and due to the lack of mutual intelligibility, Alemannic could be considered as an *Abstandssprache* (cf. Kloss 1976: 301–307) to Standard German. In addition, the Alemannic dialects of Switzerland have to be understood as *Ausbausprachen* as well, as these dialects are used in all situations in Switzerland (cf. Kloss 1976: 315–316) and differ therefore greatly from other dialects in the German language continuum. In fact, and from a phonological point of view, the Alemannic dialects are in some features closer to Middle High German (MHG) than to contemporary Standard German, whereas Standard German has to be understood as the most powerful and closely related *Ausbausprache* next to the Swiss German dialects.

Here I take a closer look at Bernese Swiss German, a High Alemannic variety spoken mainly in the Canton of Bern. In this talk, I want to present and discuss some conservative features of Bernese Swiss German. On the one hand, these features (e.g. MHG *-ei-* or MHG *-nd*) once emphasised the closeness of this variety to Middle High German and on the other hand, they also show the distance to Standard German in that Bernese Swiss German appears more as an *Abstandssprache* than as a variety of the German dialect continuum.

Over the past decades, Standard German has required a certain status, despite its rather doubtful prestige in Switzerland. Differing greatly from other dialect situations, all Alemannic dialects of Switzerland serve as mean of communication both in informal and in many formal situations. It is therefore not very surprising that Swiss German dialects show strong tendencies towards Sprachausbau, a process during which elements of foreign languages are often borrowed into the varieties of Switzerland (e.g. the lexical items "Steak" or "Butter" (butter)). Therefore, I also want to present some variables which make clear that, in spite of the described evidence of separation and differentiation, Bernese Swiss German and Standard German are slowly approaching each other.

Bernese Swiss German finds itself therefore in new circumstances, where language variation and change is taking place on a very regular base. Furthermore, the peripheral existence of Bernese Swiss German has become even more peripheral, today not only in a geographical sense but also when speaking about its historical development and its independency.

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Anja Thiel

University of Bern

Thursday 13.12.2018, 15:00–15:30 (Uni S, A-119)

/kat/ up to the Northern Cities Shift: Production and perception of the low back merger in Ogdensburg, NY

The Northern Cities Shift (NCS) and the cot-caught merger are two of the most studied phonetic changes in the US, and until recently have been thought to be mutually exclusive. Although Herzog's principle predicts that mergers expand at the expense of vowel distinction, the NCS has been assumed to offer "stable resistance" to the merger, as LOT has been fronted out of its low back position as part of the shift (Labov/Ash/Boberg 2006). Recent research however has found this resistance to be weakening due to a reversal of the NCS, for example in Northern New York (Dinkin, 2010). This paper offers insight into the progress of the merger as well as the social motivations behind this change in progress in a small NCS community in a peripheral speech community in Upstate New York.

Ogdensburg is a small city in Northern NY, located in the far north of the state, on the national border to Canada. Dinkin (2009) described Ogdensburg as the northeastern-most limit of the NCS. In addition to NCS features, Dinkin also found early evidence of an advancing cot-caught merger in the community: Three of the nine speakers sampled in Ogdensburg had transitional minimal-pair judgments, and a fourth speaker, although distinct in judgment, had a Cartesian distance of only 89 Hz between LOT and THOUGHT (Dinkin 2009). Based on this research, a new sample of 39 speakers from the community was interviewed in 2016 for the present paper. Analysis suggests that the merger has advanced further in the community, and a perception experiment suggests that social evaluation might be the motivating factor behind this change in progress.

The advancing of the merger can be observed in both production and perception. The Cartesian distance between LOT and THOUGHT is decreasing, and the overlap of both phonemes is increasing in apparent time. These findings are particularly notable in more careful speech styles. In minimal pair readings, we observe a Cartesian distance of less than 90 Hz, and more than 70% overlap in younger speakers. In spontaneous speech, on the other hand, none of the participants have a Cartesian distance of less than 100 Hz. In terms of perception, younger speakers appear to be transitional in their minimal pair judgments, while older speakers are mostly distinct. Additionally, the ability to auditorily identify both phonemes appears to be

decreasing. 11 of the younger participants had difficulty identifying their own minimal pair tokens. Five of them also struggled in identifying those of a clearly distinct speaker. Older speakers seemed to have significantly less trouble with these tasks.

A matched guise experiment suggests that the merger might be motivated by social evaluation of the merger. The results show that the perceived education level of speakers in merged guises increases in apparent time. For distinct guises, on the other hand, no such pattern can be observed in the evaluation data. Based on these results, it appears that with the reversal of the NCS, speakers in Ogdensburg also seem to be adopting the cot-caught merger as the new incoming norm.

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Hümeyra Uzunkaya

University of Augsburg

Thursday 13.12.2018, 11:00–11:30 (Uni S A-119)

Linguistic Diversity in the German School System: Ideologies, Attitudes and Practices

The dissertation project aims to shed light on the following research questions:

- 1) How is linguistic diversity (both dialect diversity and multilingualism) dealt with in everyday school life?
- 2) What kind of attitudes and values are pupils taught by their teachers with respect to matters of linguistic diversity?

Previous studies conducted by Maitz and colleagues have shown that in school books dialects are generally depicted in a negative light and iconically combined with stereotypically uneducated rural or working class speakers (Maitz 2015; Maitz/Elspaß 2011; Maitz/Elspaß 2012; Maitz/Foldenauer 2015). The pupils get the impression that dialects are deficient varieties of Standard German, which can only be used in a limited set of communicative situations, such as for singing folk songs or with speakers that apparently do not speak the standard variety. Non-standard varieties are thus discursively pushed to the periphery, while the standard variety forms the centre around which all educational efforts seem to rotate.

Taking these findings as a starting point, the dissertation project wants to enlarge the perspective on linguistic diversity by also including multilingualism, i.e. how languages other than German are dealt with at school. In this way, it comprises both so-called inner and outer multilingualism ("innere und äußere Mehrsprachigkeit"). The mentioned studies by Maitz and colleagues have already yielded some hints at negative attitudes that schoolbooks convey with respect to varieties of German that have evolved under the influence of other languages (xenolects), which are used especially by young speakers. One chapter of the thesis will thus be dedicated to the critical discourse analysis (CDA, cf. Pollak 2002; Wodak 2013) of the quite recently released new series of school books with respect to their treatment of linguistic diversity. Similarly, the curricula or syllabi (Lehrpläne), which form the major guideline around which teachers structure their lessons, will also be included in the analysis according to CDA. These analyses will reveal the linguistic ideologies (cf. Irvine/Gal 2000; Maitz 2015; Schieffelin et al. 1998) that dominate the way linguistic diversity is dealt with discursively.

Although school books are representative of the dominant mind-set that teachers are also expected to have, since they have to be authorised by the responsible ministry of the respective Bundesland, they might not be included into the actual school lessons in a lot of cases. It is

unfortunately almost impossible to get the real picture, i.e. to observe how teachers are actually dealing with linguistic diversity in their day-to-day work at school. However, one can already get closer to this reality by assessing the attitudes those teachers have towards different varieties of German and towards multilingualism. Therefore, the core contribution of this dissertation will be the use of the matched guise technique (cf. Lambert 1960) with teachers, which will allow to shed light on teachers' evaluation of different varieties and languages. This will be complemented by experiments using the reversed setting, where a picture of a supposed speaker of a given speech sample, has been shown to influence the evaluation of one and the same sample (cf. Rubin 1992; Rubin/Smith 1990; Piller 2016). The findings from these experiments can then be complemented by explicitly interviewing the participants on their views on linguistic diversity and its role in school.

In conclusion, the project aims to reveal what kind of linguistic ideologies dominate the way in which linguistic diversity is dealt with in school and in what ways the practices that can be deduced from the linguistic attitudes the teachers are shown to have bear a potential of discriminating against pupils due to their linguistic background. It is assumed that the following statement has not lost any of its relevance even today:

In an age when discrimination in terms of race, colour, religion or gender is not publicly acceptable, the last bastion of overt social discrimination will continue to be a person's use of language

(Milroy 1998: 64f.)

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S C H E D U L E

Thursday, 13.12 *Location: Uni S, A-119*

09:15–09:30 Opening

09:30–10:30 **Anita Auer:** The Glarus Dialect in the American Midwest (plenary session)

C O F F E E B R E A K

11:00–11:30 **Hümeyra Uzunkaya:** Linguistic Diversity in the German School System: Ideologies, Attitudes and Practices

L U N C H B R E A K

14:00–14:30 **Sarah Grossenbacher:** Dialectology between candyfloss stalls and dodgems

14:30–15:00 **Rob Potter:** Problematising the urban-rural continuum in a sociolinguistic setting: the case of Suffolk, UK

15:00–15:30 **Anja Thiel:** /kat/ up to the Northern Cities Shift: Production and perception of the low back merger in Ogdensburg, NY

C O F F E E B R E A K

16:00–17:00 **Göz Kaufmann:** Pomeranians in Brazil: Some Socio-Linguistic Facts (plenary session)

Friday, 14.12 *Location: Unitobler, F012*

08:45–09:45 **Malene Monka:** Dialect and place are always in a state of becoming – the case of Southern Jutland, Denmark (plenary session)

09:45–10:15 **Hannah Hedegard:** “We’re not even anywhere /NEAR/ Australia”: post-colonial English on the Cocos (Keeling) Islands

C O F F E E B R E A K

10:45–11:15 **Sarah Lynch:** Changing Centres and Peripheries: Hawaiian English effects on Kosraean English

11:15–11:45 **Dominique B. Hess:** The quotative system in Saipanese English: Contrasting profiles of *be like* and *zero*

11:45–12:15 **Eva Kuske:** “My grandpa is old school” – Generational Development from a Peripheral to an Americanized Variety, Reflected in Guam English Front Vowels

L U N C H B R E A K

14:00–14:30 **Martina Heer:** *Annen, Betschen, Grossen, Kuhnen, Wyssen* – the Swiss-German surnames formed by genitive and their distribution in Switzerland

14:30–15:00 **Christa Schneider:** Alemannic – a small dialect group in new circumstances

15:00–15:30 **Sandro Bachmann:** The most peripheral peripheries: Bosco/Gurin (and other Walser language islands)

C O F F E E B R E A K

16:00–17:00 **Marie Maegaard:** The value of peripheral dialect in restaurant and food encounters (plenary session)

Saturday, 15.12 *Location: Unitobler, F012*

09:00–09:30 **Katja Fiechter:** A rural region in the catchment area of Basel: dialect convergence or divergence?

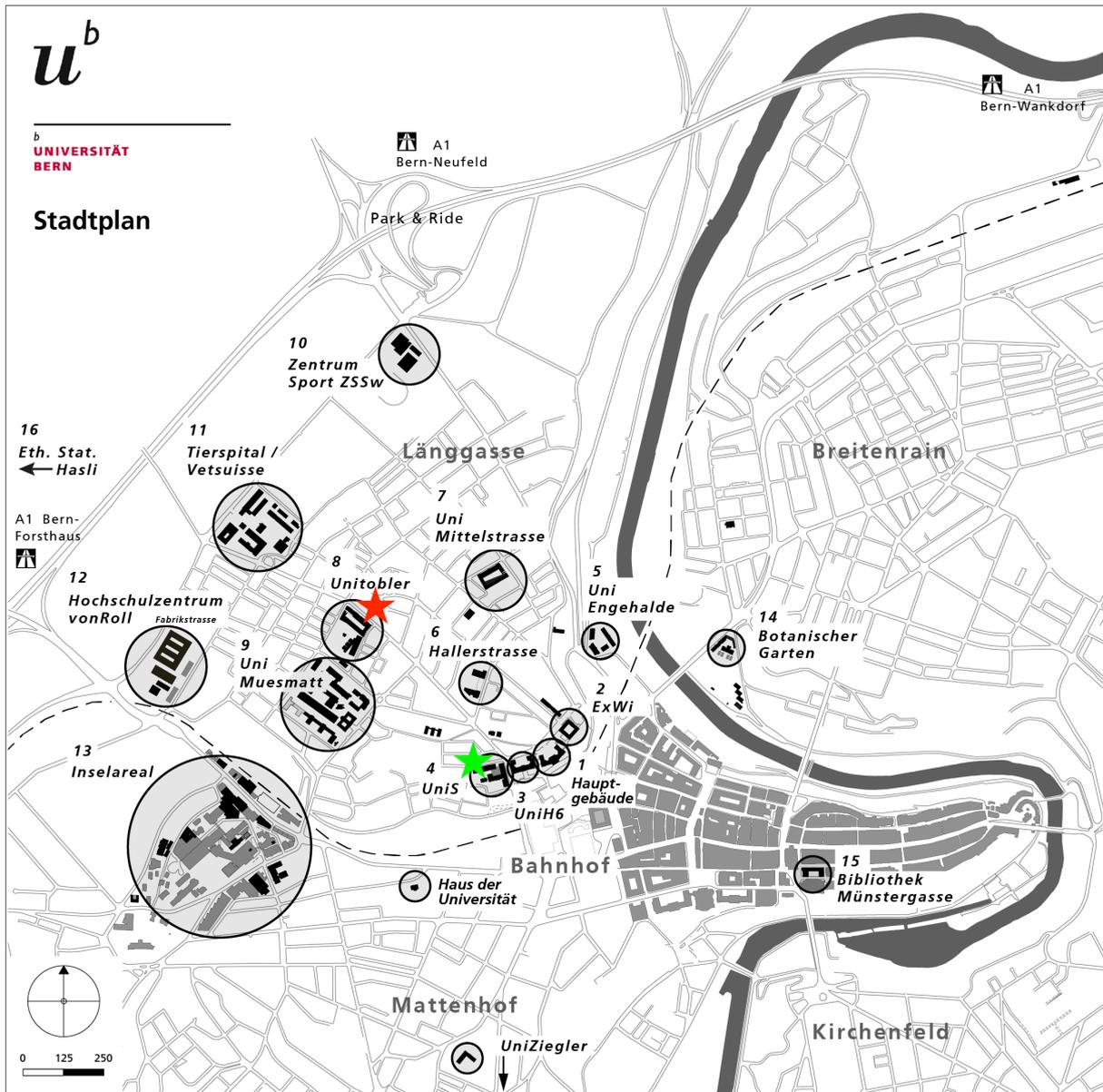
09:30–10:00 **Andrin Büchler:** Obersaxen – From the periphery of the periphery to a skiing centre

C O F F E E B R E A K

10:30–11:00 **Mateusz Maselko:** Progressivität im Riograndenser Hunsrückisch: Funktionalität und Variation

11:00–12:00 **Péter Maitz:** Living on the Edge. Unserdeutsch (Rabaul Creole German) oder das Schicksal einer Sprachgemeinschaft an der gesellschaftlichen und linguistischen Peripherie (plenary session)

L U N C H



How to get there

- **Uni S:** Bus Nr. 12 (direction: *Länggasse*) from Bern main station to bus stop *Universität*
When taking the *Welle*-exit at Bern main station, the place is reachable by foot within 4–5 minutes.
- **Unitobler:** Bus Nr. 12 (direction: *Länggasse*) from Bern main station to bus stop *Mittelstrasse* or *Unitobler*
When taking the *Welle*-exit at Bern main station, the place is reachable by foot within 10–12 minutes.