



### **SFB Guest Lecture**

**Monday, 25 February 2019, 3:15 pm  
Campus Neues Palais, Building 9, Room 2.03**

Invited by SFB 1287 (A01, A03, B04)

**Louise Eley** (King's College London) will give a talk on

## **A linguistic ethnography of Frankfurt's Bahnhofsviertel**

With plentiful businesses run by owners and staff with a migration background, numerous cultural and religious institutions, and the highest proportion of 'foreign' residents in the city (Stadt Frankfurt am Main 2016: 1), Frankfurt am Main's Bahnhofsviertel is known and celebrated for its cultural and ethnic diversity. At an official level, Frankfurt's City Planning Department understands this particular locality to serve "a function that extends far beyond the city limits as regards the social integration of immigrants" (Stadtplanungsamt Frankfurt am Main n.d.).

I will start my talk by introducing the different angles I have taken in linguistic ethnographic fieldwork in the district spread over three years which has centered on interaction and signage. I will then zoom in on a particular site - a multi-ethnic barbershop - discussing language practices that help to guide communication across diverse and discrepant language repertoires there. Interactional sensitivities manifest in practices of translating/interpreting and 'ecumenical German' - a set of improvisations, involving various acts of communication accommodation, focused on encouraging comprehension. Alongside exploring the forms and features of ecumenical German, I will consider its ideological representation in people's reflections on language and relationships in the barbershop and its implication in the way they experience and make sense of the diverse setting.

*Everyone is cordially invited.*

#### **References**

- Stadt Frankfurt am Main. 2016. "statistik.aktuell: Frankfurt am Main ist im Jahr 2015 um fast 16000 Einwohnerinnen und Einwohner gewachsen." Retrieved February 7, 2019 ([http://www.frankfurt.de/sixcms/media.php/678/07\\_Bev%C3%B6lkerung\\_Ende2015.pdf](http://www.frankfurt.de/sixcms/media.php/678/07_Bev%C3%B6lkerung_Ende2015.pdf)).
- Stadtplanungsamt Frankfurt am Main. N.d. "Urban redevelopment in the Bahnhofsviertel." Retrieved February 7, 2019 ([http://www.stadtplanungsamt-frankfurt.de/urban\\_redevelopment\\_in\\_the\\_bahnhofsviertel\\_5572.html?langfront=en&psid=2](http://www.stadtplanungsamt-frankfurt.de/urban_redevelopment_in_the_bahnhofsviertel_5572.html?langfront=en&psid=2)).

**For further questions:** [serkayueksel@uni-potsdam.de](mailto:serkayueksel@uni-potsdam.de) (SFB project A01)