

**Call for abstracts for the
Research School “*Language contact within systems and speakers*”
(for PhD and postgraduate scholars)**

Short description

The German and Slavic Departments of the University of Potsdam are pleased to announce the Research School “*Language contact within systems and speakers*”, which will take place from 21st to 23rd February 2018 at the University of Potsdam, Germany. The Research School is open to PhD and postdoc scholars, working in various subfields associated with the areas of *language contact* or *multilingualism* who strive to present and discuss their current research projects within the peer community but also want to receive feedback from renowned experts in the fields. Additionally, the Research School gives the opportunity to develop practical methodological skills by means of workshops and hands-on sessions.

Description

The Research School “*Language contact within systems and speakers*” offers a wide forum for exchange on experimental work and hands-on research on current topics from the field of language contact. The event focuses on three intimately related areas, which construct the building blocks of the school both in thematic and organisational terms: 1) Bilingual (multilingual) language acquisition including work of language attrition and heritage languages; 2) Language variation, and 3) Institutional multilingualism. The Research School lasts three days, with each day being devoted to one of the three main areas. Each topic day will be based around a keynote lecture given by an expert in the relevant field who will set up the content and methodological impulse for the day. Subsequently, the participants can take part in workshops and hands-on sessions led by experienced trainers. After a short input into the methodology of a specific topic, the participants will be given the opportunity to discuss methodological aspects and problems related to their research and receive specific advice and feedback from the trainers.

By adopting an integrated approach to ontogenetic and phylogenetic manifestations of language contact and change, the aim of the Research School is to cover topics ranging from individual and social aspects to structural-typological issues. Topics covered by the Research School may include acquisition-oriented aspects of child (and adult) multilingualism such as second language acquisition and bilingual first language acquisition; aspects of code switching; aspects of contact-induced language change such as lexical and structural borrowing (contact languages), as well as societal aspects of multilingualism and language management in society and particularly in educational institutions (language maintenance and language shift), and many more.

The Research School does not have a fixed theoretical orientation and welcomes contributions from a variety of approaches on methodology to language contact and the mentioned subfields. The main focus is laid on the methodological repertoire that is most commonly associated with the individual fields. We expect participants to come into dialog and concrete exchange on specific methodological issues. In this way the Research School will foster exchange of views and methods on dealing with data collection, assessment and analysis within the subfields. In the process of presenting and discussing the respective methodology, we expect participants and experts, leading the individual workshops and hands-on sessions, to be able to learn from each other and each other’s methodological experiences by exchanging views and acquiring knowledge of methods of research that may not be common within their own field.

Application and abstract guidelines

PhD and postdoc scholars interested in participating in the Research School are invited to submit abstracts for 20-minute presentations during the workshops or in the hand-on sessions. The abstract should briefly summarize the main facets of your research project on any topic within the areas of bilingual (multilingual) language acquisition including work of language attrition and heritage languages, language variation, and institutional multilingualism, also mentioning problems or open questions that can be discussed with the trainers leading the individual sessions of the Research School. Whereas the workshops can deal with all possible aspects of projects in terms of theory and praxis, the hands-on sessions will give participants the possibility to discuss specific empirical issues such as data planning and analysis.

The participation fee for the entire length of the Research School is 30 Euro. Lunch meals are included.

The deadline for receipt of abstracts is **8 December 2017**.

How to submit an abstract

Abstracts must be no longer than 500 words (margins: 2.5 cm or 1 inch, size of characters: 12 points, Times New Roman, spacing: single), and should include your name, institution as well as your current status, i.e. PhD or Postdoc. An additional page for references, figures and data can be included. Abstracts should be in PDF format, with all non-standard fonts embedded.

Abstracts should be submitted by email to teodora.radeva-bork@uni-potsdam.de by 8 December 2017. Please indicate whether your submission is for a workshop or for a hands-on session, or for both. An individual may submit at most one single and one co-authored presentation.

Invited speakers and topic areas

Maria Polinsky (University Maryland) *Heritage speakers*

Heike Wiese (University Potsdam) *Language variation in multilingual groups*

Christoph Schroeder (University Potsdam) *Institutional multilingualism*

Trainers and functions

Tanja Anstatt (Ruhr University Bochum) *Workshop*

Peter Auer (University Freiburg) *Workshop*

Natalia Brüggemann (University Regensburg) *Workshop*

Francis M. Hult (Lund University) *Workshop*

Peter Rosenberg (European University Viadrina Frankfurt (Oder)) *Workshop*

Tom Fritzsche (University Potsdam) *Hands-on session*

Gunnar Jacob (University Potsdam) *Hands-on session*

Organizers

Jana Gamper (University Potsdam, KU Eichstätt-Ingolstadt)

Teodora Radeva-Bork (University Potsdam)

Contact

languagecontact@uni-potsdam.de

or

teodora.radeva-bork@uni-potsdam.de

For further information see [the website of the Research School](#)

Important dates

Deadline for abstracts: **8 December 2017**

Notification of acceptance: **20 December 2017**

Research School: **21-23 February 2018**