

**How can we capture linguistic variation in multilingual contexts?
An inclusive perspective**

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It is notoriously difficult to elicit data that is representative of speakers' natural behaviour and captures variation within and across repertoires. This is especially true for such language contact settings as heritage-language contexts or multilingual urban settings. Furthermore, when analysing nonstandard patterns from such settings, it can be tricky to tease apart genuinely contact-induced language change with synchronic variation and/or language internal dynamics. In my talk, I will discuss such challenges from a conceptual and methodological point of view. I will take a look at different kinds of methodological options, including controlled experiments, elicitation studies, and spontaneous data investigation, and discuss their respective advantages and challenges with examples from previous research on language variation in multilingual contexts. I will present a method to elicit naturalistic repertoire data for systematic comparative studies, discuss its applications in a range of settings, and analyse the implications of different findings for our view of grammatical variation in language contact. Crucially, I will advocate an inclusive perspective on multilingual contexts that takes into account the breadth of speakers' repertoires for bi- and multilingual groups as well as monolingual controls, targeting speakers' actual language use and their linguistic range over different communicative situations.