

CENTRE LANGUAGE – VARIATION – MULTILINGUALISM
LINGUISTIC LECTURE SERIES
WINTER TERM 2022-23

ZI WANG ([IFRAE](#), PARIS - FRANCE)

“EAST ASIAN MIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN GERMANY:
QUESTIONS OF LANGUAGE, WELLBEING, AND THE
ROLE OF HERITAGE EDUCATIONAL ORGANISATIONS”

Abstract:

Germany is a major destination for international migrants. Among migrants who hail from more than 100 origin countries across all continents, the Chinese and Japanese groups have some of the longest community-building histories. They also enjoy a high degree of vitality: the Chinese represent the fastest-growing non-European migrant group, whereas the Japanese communities command an over-proportionate cultural presence in important regions. Yet the dynamics of Chinese and Japanese migration to and integration in Germany have largely remained unexplored. The question of language is a case in point. Relatively little is known about their attitudes towards, and needs of, both German language acquisition and heritage language maintenance. Yet this is a quintessential part of international migrants' daily life. After a brief review of the settlement histories of Chinese and Japanese communities, I present major findings from a recently concluded research project on language and wellbeing of Chinese and Japanese-speaking migrant communities in Germany. Special emphasis will be put on how language – both German and heritage – can impact migrants' wellbeing in different ways, as well as the crucial role played by migrant-led heritage educational organisations in facilitating language acquisition, maintenance, and wellbeing.

Time: Wednesday, 30th November 2022 (4.15 p.m.)

Place: Campus Neues Palais, University of Potsdam



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