

**Britta Schneider:**

**Authenticity beyond nations – Understanding constructions of authenticity in transnational communities and in digital infrastructures**

**Abstract:**

What is understood as ‘authentic’ has, in linguistic approaches, often been based on national and ethnic concepts of the social, where traditional and rural forms were often treated as representing the ‘authentic’ way of speaking. And yet, in an age of globalization and digitalization, old certainties require reconsideration, which engenders new discussions regarding the notion of linguistic authenticity. In my talk, I want to discuss two questions: Which constructions of authenticity do we find in non-national/non-ethnic types of community and, secondly, which discussions about language and authenticity emerge in relation to language-generating AI technologies. Based on ethnographic research and the inspection of current academic and public debates on language and machine-learning, I hope to contribute to an understanding of sign making, authority and authenticity in post-national contexts.