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Call for Papers: Swiss Association for Applied Linguistics VALS-ASLA Study Day 2021

Language and Mobility in the Education System

Friday, 11 June, 2021

St. Gallen University of Teacher Education, Institute for Language Teacher Education

The study day focuses on the interrelations between different forms of mobility, language competences and practices, and the education system. One of the main foci is on the mobility of pupils, students and (future) teachers. In the Swiss education system, mobility takes place across school levels in various forms and facets, e.g. in the form of traditional language exchange, study trips, internships in other language regions, student or teacher mobility.

These mobility experiences are often characterized by language learning processes and intercultural alterity experiences, or are deliberately aimed at such experiences. It is therefore hardly surprising that the development of language competences, including intercultural communicative competence, and the use of linguistic repertoires have always been a particular focus of mobility research within the field of linguistics. Typically, the focus is on a specific target language and the convergence towards a native speaker norm rather than on a dynamic interplay of languages or multilingual repertoires, which falls short considering to the multilingual reality of students, teachers and society as a whole. In addition to an isolated consideration of target language competences, the conceptualization and analysis of multilingual practices and competences (e.g., translanguaging, intercomprehension, mediation) as well as the operationalization of these in valid instruments or procedures for diagnostics are of particular interest from the perspective of plurilingualism research and didactics. Such an adjustment of perspective reflects the endeavor not to postulate monolithic monolingual target cultures when investigating intercultural communicative competences, but to explore more complex, e.g. transcultural phenomena.

Other possible thematic fields in connection with language and mobility include the construction of linguistic identity in the context of mobility experiences and language-ideological discourses at the level of educational institutions. Also of particular interest are research approaches that compare practices and experiences in often temporarily limited and socio-economically privileged contexts, such as exchange semesters at higher education level, with discourses on migration-related multilingualism or the pluricultural identities of migrants.

Papers in this interdisciplinary research field are possible and welcome in the following areas:

- a. Forms of educational mobility and their relation to the development of linguistic and intercultural competences and repertoires
- b. Multilingual and transcultural practices in mobility scenarios that traditionally focus primarily on a 'target language' or 'target culture'
- c. Possibilities and limitations of diagnostics and measurement of target-language and multilingual or intercultural competence in the context of mobility
- d. Comparison of practices and discourses of short-term mobility (e.g. exchange semesters) and migration as long-term mobility
- e. Interrelations between mobility, social discourses and linguistic identities

We welcome contributions from applied linguistics, especially sociolinguistics, discourse linguistics and language didactics (foreign language/s, language/s of schooling, second language/s, language/s of origin, distant language/s)

Confirmed Keynote Speakers

- **Prof. Dr. Susanne Ehrenreich**, Department of Cultural Studies – Anglistics and American Studies, Chair for Applied Linguistics and English Language Education, Technical University of Dortmund
- **Dr. Àngels Llanes**, Lecturer in the Department of English and Linguistics, University of Lleida, Catalonia

Organizational Structure

One-day event. Two plenary lectures are planned as well as individual papers in two to three parallel sections. Should the COVID situation prevent us from meeting in person in 2021, we will nevertheless hold the study day in online form. We would ensure to design it as interactively as possible on the scheduled date. The conference languages are German, French, Italian and English.

Contributions

The contributions are in the form of individual presentations. Each contribution is assigned a time slot of 30 minutes (20 minutes presentation, 10 minutes discussion).

Guidelines for the Submission of Contributions

For each contribution, an abstract (max. 400 words) must be submitted (excl. bibliography). The following information is required in the abstract: Assignment to two of the five areas mentioned above (1st choice and 2nd choice), e-mail address, name and affiliation, title, bibliography, 3 to 5 keywords.

All contributions must be submitted in electronic form via the following e-mail address:

→ vals-asla@phsg.ch

Deadline for submission of contributions: 10 January 2021

Review Procedure

All submitted contributions will be evaluated anonymously by two members of the scientific committee. Criteria for the evaluation are: Relevance of the research question, transparency and stringency of the procedure, innovation potential and, if applicable, the quality of the data collected and the results, relevance to one of the five areas of the study day.

The decision on acceptance/rejection will be announced by 15 February 2021.

Responsible for the study day

Institute of Language Teacher Education, St. Gallen University of Teacher Education

Dr. Sybille Heinzmann, St. Gallen University of Teacher Education, Institute of Language Teacher Education, Sonnenstrasse 27, 9000 St. Gallen, e-mail: sybille.heinzmann@phsg.ch

Venue: St. Gallen University of Teacher Education, Hadwig building, Notkerstrasse 27, 9000 St. Gallen

Conference fees

- VALS-ASLA members (incl. Snacks and lunch): CHF 40
- VALS-ASLA non-members (incl. snacks and lunch): CHF 70
- Doctoral students and students (incl. snacks and lunch): CHF 30.-

The conference fees are subject to change due to possible COVID adjustments.

Website of the study day:

<https://www.phsg.ch/en/vals-asla-study-day-2021>