

InCoLaS Workshop **Language and inequality in the age of superdiversity**

MPI-MMG, Göttingen
11-12 January 2017

by invitation only

Official and institutional responses to linguistic diversity play a significant part in establishing (and maintaining) close links between linguistic repertoires, social hierarchies, prestige and stigma. While there is no reason to assume that the sociolinguistic landscapes of globalised societies are less unequal than before, it is clear that we need suitable ways of seeing and conceptualizing the (perhaps increasingly complex) relationships between social hierarchization, identification, linguistic practices and metadiscursive regimes. This workshop will contribute to developing such conceptualizations through an intensive discussion of existing conceptualizations of social inequalities across disciplines and their intersection with language. The aim is to understand the intersections of social stratification and cultural and linguistic categorization in an age of (linguistic) superdiversity and to contribute to the development of an analytical framework for these intersections.

Participants:

Prof. Lian Malai Madsen (University of Copenhagen)
Thomas Rørbeck Nørreby (University of Copenhagen)
Susanne Becker (MPI Göttingen)
Dr. Annelies Kusters (MPI Göttingen)
Louise Eley (King's College London)
Dr. Massimiliano Spotti (Tilburg University)
Prof. James Collins (University of Albany/SUNY)

Goals of the workshop:

To explore theoretical conceptualizations of the relationships between social stratification, identification, linguistic practices and metadiscursive regimes under the current conditions of superdiversity and globalization.

The participants will discuss how language ideologies in different spaces:

- impact categorizations of elite and vernacular multilingualisms and ascribe more or less prestige to those associated with them;
- lead to different opportunities for speakers' mobility and impact on (linguistic) obligations;
- produce challenges for official institutions faced with increasing linguistic diversity that require speakers to navigate between different sociolinguistic restrictions and possibilities.
- (re-)produce structures of stratification by (re-)producing linguistic categories

Planned output:

One of the main goals of the workshop is to produce Working Paper(s) on the nexus between superdiversity, language and social inequalities.



Programme

Wednesday, 11 January 2017

09:30 Welcome remarks

09:45-11:15 **SESSION 1: GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- What do we mean when we talk about social inequalities?
- How do we conceptualize the relationship between language and social inequalities?

Coffee break

11:30-13:00 **SESSION 2: PRESENTATIONS + DISCUSSIONS OF CASE STUDIES**

ANNELIES KUSTERS: "Customer interactions between deaf and hearing Mumbaikars"

LOUISE ELEY: "Signage and ground-level symbolic power in a Frankfurt neighbourhood in transition"

13:00-14:00 *Lunch*

14:00-15:30 **SESSION 3: PRESENTATIONS + DISCUSSIONS OF CASE STUDIES**

LIAN MALAI MADSEN AND THOMAS RØRBECK NØRREBY: "The symbolic organization of languages at a high prestige school"

SUSANNE BECKER: "Language and asylum in Germany - Linguicism, commodification of language and linguistic rights"

Coffee break

16:00-17:30 Open Keynote **JAMES COLLINS:** Registers and Racialization in South Africa

Thursday, 12 January 2017

09:30-10:45 **SESSION 1: GENERAL DISCUSSION**

- (How) Do we have to rethink social inequalities in an age of superdiversity?
- (How) Do we have to rethink the nexus of language and social inequalities in an age of superdiversity?

Coffee break

11:00-12:30 **SESSION 2: CONCEPTUALIZING A POSITION PAPER**

12:30-13:30 *Lunch*

13:30-15:00 **SESSION 3: ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES**

Coffee break

15:15-15:30 Closing remarks



Readings:

- Guidetti, Giovanni / Rehbein, Boike (2014): Theoretical Approaches to Inequality in Economics and Sociology. A Preliminary Assessment, in: *Transcience* 5.
- Collins, James (2014): Literacy practices, linguistic anthropology and social inequality.
- Philips, Susan U. (2004): Language and Social Inequality. In: Duranti, Alessandro (Hrsg.). *A companion to linguistic anthropology*, Malden, MA, p. 474–495.
- Bourdieu, Pierre (1989): Social Space and Symbolic Power, in: *Sociological Theory* 7, p. 14-25
- Madsen, Lian Malai (2013): “High” and “low” in urban Danish speech styles, in: *Language in Society* 42, S. 115–138.
- Extra, Guus / Spotti, Massimiliano / van Avermaet, Piet (2009): Language testing, migration, and citizenship. *Cross-national perspectives on integration regimes*, London, p.3-33
- Jacquemet, Marco (2005): Transidiomatic practices. Language and power in the age of glob-alization, in: *Language & Communication* 25, S. 257–277.
- Friedman, Jonathan (Hrsg.) (2003): *Globalizing Languages. Ideologies and Realities of the Contemporary Global System*, New Jersey.

