

April 16th, 9:30 – 12:30, KO2-G-275, Hauptgebäude, Rämistrasse 71:

Researching language contact. Workshop with Lenore Grenoble, University of Chicago

What is language contact? Why is it relevant to current linguistic theory? Language contact is often approached from a historical perspective, examining changes that took place in linguistic systems in the past. In this workshop we build on this body of research to expand language contact to examine change in process, and to consider how language contact is part of language shift. These and other related questions are at the center of this workshop aimed at students and early career researchers (PhDs and PostDocs) in linguistics who are interested in the dynamics of language contact.

This workshop primarily focuses on different theoretical perspectives on language contact, including methodologies to approach the study of contact, and to understand the linguistic mechanisms involved in contact and the outcomes of contact. Departing from Professor Lenore Grenoble's extensive research experience with Slavic and Arctic indigenous languages, this workshop provides theoretical and methodological approaches to students and researchers regardless of the specific typological characteristics of the languages they are working with.

Participants are invited to bring to the workshop current own research projects and/or ideas for future projects. After an introductory part on main theoretical and methodological approaches to language contact, participants will join an interactive session. During the interactive session, participants will have the chance to work on their research questions in groups and engage in constructive discussions with Professor Lenore Grenoble on significant methodological aspects of their projects.