Language & Space *News*

Well Prepared into the Second Period

On the Lake of Zurich after the retreat at the conference center Schloss Au near Wädenswil

In April this year, we received the good news that the URPP *Language and Space* will be supported for another period of four years (2017–2020). This decision affirmed that linguistics belongs to one of the UZH's flagships.

Agnes Kolmer

When the URPP *Language and Space* started in 2013, the participating professors, postdoc and PhD scholars were subdivided primarily into the two groups *Linguistic Areas* and *Interactional Spaces*. Gradually, the larger group *Linguistic Areas*, stimulated by bottom-up driven ap-

proaches, felt the need to divide into smaller groups. Therefore, the board of directors decided to encourage reorganization of the hitherto bipolar structure.

This year, we successfully started the reorganization process, and we are now, shortly before the beginning of the next phase, ready for the change. We will proceed into the next period with the following five focused research groups (FFGs, Fokussierte Forschungsgruppen): *Accommodation and Social Categorization* (coord. by Hanna Ruch), *Areal Morphology* (coord. by Balthasar Bickel),

Interactional Spaces (coord. by Heiko Hausendorf), *Spatial Reference* (coord. by Ross Purves), and *Systems of Nominal Determination in Contact* (SYNODE) (coord. by Elisabeth Stark). Furthermore, five networks will be established: *Language Contact*, *Partitivity*, *Theories of Space*, *Visualization*, and *Citizen Science*.

After intense internal discussions at our last retreat in June 2016, the newly established FFGs presented their research agendas for the next four years to the members of the Scientific Advisory Board in mid-September. Examples of sizeable third-party funded projects as part of URPP focused research groups are the SNSF-projects "Linguistic morphology in time and space" (project leader: Balthasar Bickel) and "AIS, reloaded" (project leader: Michele Loporcaro) within the FFG *Areal Morphology*, the SNSF-project "Differential object marking" (project leader: Johannes Kabatek) within the FFG SYNODE, and the SNSF-project "Interactive discoveries: A video and eye-tracking based study of knowledge construction in science centres" (project leader: Wolfgang Kesselheim) within the FFG *Interactional Spaces*. Further projects have been submitted recently and are in preparation.

A Week of Studies

In early September this year, the first summer school of the URPP *Language and Space* was held at Kloster Kappel, "located in the countryside, surrounded by forest, meadows and fruit trees, with a spectacular view over the Alps, between Lake Zurich and Lake Zug," according to the venue's own website. The location turned out to be ideal for a full week of intensive work with a small but enthusiastic and dedicated group of students from six different countries.

Andreas H. Jucker

The organizers and four of the seven teachers were members of the URPP *Language and Space:* Curdin Derungs, Andreas H. Jucker, Daniel Schreier, Barbara Sonnenhauser, Elisabeth Stark, and Robert Weibel. Three teachers joined us from outside: Naomi Baron from the American University in Washington, Ellen Brandner from the University of Konstanz and Crispin Thurlow from the University of Berne. Together the seven teachers presented a rich range of perspectives on the topic of language and space. One afternoon was reserved for an outing to Zugerberg and to Zug with some sightseeing in the medieval old town and a dip into the lake of Zug for some much-needed cooling down on a wonderfully sunny and hot day. A particular highlight of the week were two evenings of Pecha Kucha presentations in which the students presented their own research with Powerpoint presentations consisting of exactly 20 slides each of which was shown for exactly 20 seconds; a challenging and fast-paced format that forced the presenters to be maximally succinct and clear. Little wonder that the Abbot's cellar with its offerings of various refreshments and beverages turned out to be a popular spot for some convivial get-togethers after the long working days.

www.spur.uzh.ch/summerschool

Discussions in the open air: The participants of the URPP summer school on the hike to Zug

New Members

Christina Brandenberger is a PhD candidate in the SNSF project "Inter-active Discoveries" since August 2016.
Volker Dellwo, professor of phonetics and speech sciences, joined the URPP as a participating professor in September 2016.
Karina Frick is a postdoctoral researcher in the group "Interactional Spaces" since September 2016.

Upcoming Events

December 15, 2016, 16:15–18:00
Language evolution and the structure of social interaction in human and non-human primates
Federico Rossano (University of California, San Diego)
URPP Colloqium, Room KOL F-123, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zurich

December 22, 2016, 16:15–18:00
Torlak vernacular corpus creation and corpus-based morphosyntactic analysis
Teodora Vuković (UZH, Department of Slavonic Studies)
PhD Program Linguistics, Room KOL F-123, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zurich

January 26–27, 2017
Workshop "Diachronic morphology: theoretical, areal, and phylogenetic perspectives"
Keynote speakers: Marianne Mithun (UC Santa Barbara), Andrew Spencer (University of Essex)
Organized by members of the FFG Areal Morphology and of the SNSF-project Linguistic Morphology in Time and Space (LiMiTS).
Contact: Rik van Gijn (erik.vangijn@uzh.ch)
Room KOL E-18, Rämistrasse 71, 8006 Zurich
www.arealmorphology.uzh.ch/en.html

Corrigendum

In the last issue of the *Language & Space News,* the presentation of the Scientific Advisory Board members could have caused confusion. Professor Joe Salmons is the chair of this committee.

Acquiring Orientation in Multimodality

Interview: Antonia Steger

Nathalie Meyer joined the URPP Language and Space in February 2015 as a PhD student in the research group "Interactional Spaces."
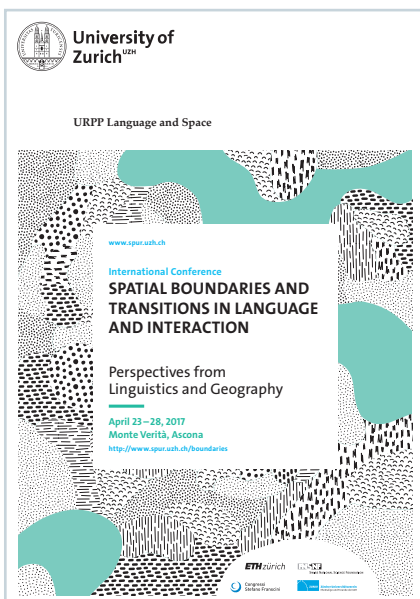
What is the core interest of your PhD project?

Nathalie Meyer: On the one hand, I want to develop a useful model to transcribe complex, multilayered audio-visual data such as video game livestreaming, which consist of a game screen with multiple elements embedded in it, a chat box, a streamer's webcam picture and several different pop-up alert messages. On the other hand, I tackle multimodal communication to see what kind of verbal and non-verbal modes participants use and how they use them. Furthermore, because livestreaming is quite complex also with regards to space, I study how different layers of space are constructed, used, navigated, and referred to during a broadcast and what role(s) different communicative modes play in this.

Could you describe some interesting characteristics of online/virtual communication in game streaming platforms?

Meyer: Firstly, I characterize communication during a livestream as something that is massively multimodal, as we find speech, writing, dynamic and static images, sounds, music, gestures, gaze etc. in a single broadcast. Secondly, because of the design of livestreaming platforms, participants are also able to make use of a variety of different affordances for communication, such as multiple voice-based and text-based chats and so-called alert messages. These circumstances eventually lead to a lot of cross-modal interactions, for example when a streamer replies via speech to a written question in the platform's chat.

You received your M. A. from the University of Basel and joined the URPP Language and Space in Zurich for your PhD. How do you profit from this mobility?

Meyer: Well, I think the main advantage of working at the URPP is its interdisciplinary structure. Whereas I was mainly surrounded by interactional and CMC (computer-mediated communication) linguists during my M. A., due to my specialization, the URPP gives me a chance to engage in academic discussions with many researchers from other areas, such as cultural studies, areal linguistics, geographers and so on. These exchanges are incredibly valuable, as they help to broaden my perspective and knowledge on different topics regarding language and space.

International Conference – Current Status

The organization of the URPP *Language and Space's* first international conference has taken a big step forward. The call for papers ended on October 31, 2016 with more than 50 abstracts submitted. With this amount of abstracts, we started the review process immediately after the deadline. The preliminary program will be published in mid-January 2017. It is possible to register for the conference and for the hands-on workshop until January 31, 2017. Please visit the conference website for more details.

www.spur.uzh.ch/boundaries

MA Empirical Linguistics

In October 2016, the Specialized Master's program "Empirical Linguistics: Digital Approaches to the Study of Languages and Speech" has been submitted to the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, with Martin Volk as responsible professor. Previous conceptual work has been coordinated by Elisabeth Stark. The program focuses on methodology and also integrates teaching from the URPP laboratories. In case of acceptance, the program will be implemented in 2018 and contribute to the attractiveness of Zurich as a place to study linguistics.

Maps and Manuals from the "GiveMeMaps!" Project

Do you remember the call for the "Give-MeMaps!" project earlier this year—for instance in the February edition of this newsletter? "GiveMeMaps!" was launched with the aim of identifying and also satisfying the URPP *Language and Space's* need for good cartographic maps. An online survey was distributed and people were asked to submit descriptions of their needs with regard to maps. These were collected and processed by Adriana Zanda, student assistant in the GISLab.

Figure 1: An example output of the "GiveMeMaps!" project, representing data of a sociolinguistic questionnaire by Hanna Ruch. Lines visualize the popularity ratings by participants from the Grisons: "How do you like dialect XX?" (1=not at all, 6=very much). The mean values of dialect popularity ratings increase in counter-clockwise direction.

Curdin Derungs and Adriana Zanda

During the project, we realized that not only relatively few requests for maps were submitted, but also that some of the requests were of the nature of data collection or spatial analysis, rather than straight forward map production. For this reason we decided to add an additional component to the project, namely to provide a series of simple DIY tutorials.

We feature three different types of tutorials, namely mapping with standalone GIS software, creating maps with R and initial spatial analysis with R:
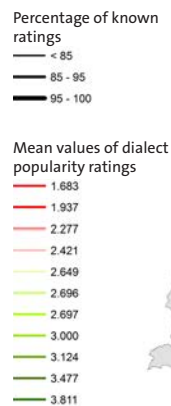
– Two manuals describe how to design simple maps with ArcMap and QGIS, two popular stand-alone GIS applications. The manuals include instructions on reading your own data from CSV spreadsheets and producing PDF or PNG maps.

– Two tutorials guide the user through the process of creating maps with R; one with a focus on global representations with generalized land cover information as a background map (Figure 2), the other introduces the leaflet package, a user friendly map tool that allows to dynamically explore your data.

– Finally, we made two R scripts for initial spatial analysis of linguistic data available (on the basis of examples from dialectology). The two scripts were developed for the URPP *Language and Space's* summer school held at Kloster Kappel this year. The user is guided through the steps of testing the hypothesis of spatial dependence of individual linguistic features (i.e. spatial autocorrelation). The examples cover statistical tests for continuous as well as (multi-)nominal variables, as both are often present in linguistics.

The GISLab is always prepared to provide support with cartographic map design. It would be great to see numerous future map publications labelled with the statement "created by the GISLab, URPP *Language and Space,"* which would contribute to our institution's corporate identity.

The results of this first map-production series can be viewed under the following link: www.spur.uzh.ch/givememaps-results Links to the manuals can be found on the GISLab homepage: www.spur.uzh.ch/gislab-manuals
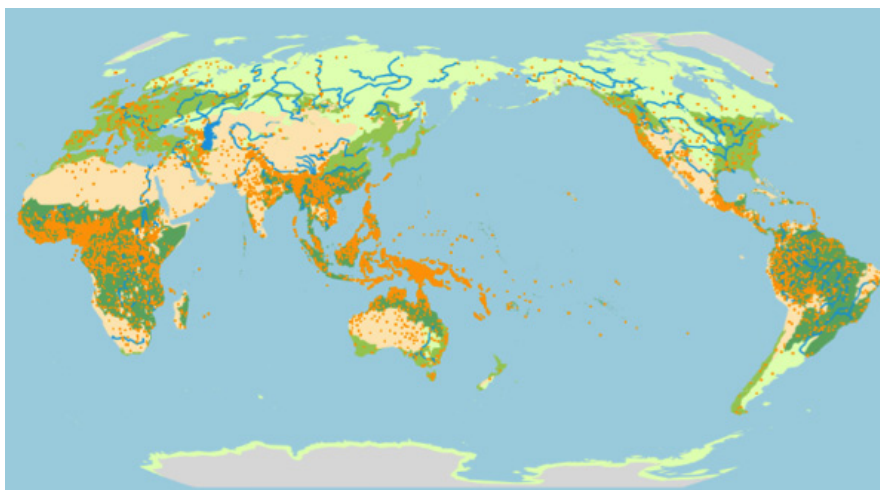

Figure 2: Map produced using the R manual. Orange dots represent language locations from the Autotyp database. Background colours represent different land cover types, such as rain forest (dark green), desert (brown) or boreal forest (green). The density of languages seems to depend on the types of land cover.