

Luxembourg-Switzerland Research Networking Workshop

Laboratory of Luxembourgish Linguistics and Literatures
University of Luxembourg

Workshop organisers: Anne Franziskus, Julia de Bres, Peter Gilles

Workshop description

The purpose of the one-day workshop is to build connections between researchers working on sociolinguistics and multilingualism in Luxembourg and Switzerland.

Based on a trip to Switzerland in 2010, we discovered that there has been little formal interaction between researchers working on sociolinguistic issues in Luxembourg and Switzerland, despite a number of compelling similarities between the two countries in terms of language, including:

- Official multilingualism of both countries
- Borders with France and Germany, among other countries
- Presence of similar languages: German, French, Germanic varieties (Swiss German, Luxembourgish), English
- Strong economies built on the financial sector
- Very high proportion of foreign residents and other immigrants in the workforce
- Presence of cross-border workers from France and Germany

Given these similarities in the sociolinguistic situation of both countries, we believe there is much to be gained from further exploring connections between research on language in Luxembourg and Switzerland. The aim of the proposed workshop would be for attendees to share past or current research on one or more of the aspects above, with the purpose of identifying comparative aspects and links. We would particularly welcome discussion on the following themes in the Swiss and/or Luxembourg context:

- Multilingualism at the workplace
- Language and immigration flows
- Language ideologies in a context of globalisation
- Parallels between Swiss German and Luxembourgish (perceptions of relationship to German, standardisation processes, code-mixing in different contexts)
- Language contact between German and French in Luxembourg and Switzerland
- Language policies in multilingual contexts
- Similarities and differences between the Luxembourg and Swiss language contexts

In order to allow for engagement in as much discussion as possible on common research interests, we suggest a workshop format involving **very brief presentations** from attendees (15 minutes maximum). Given the short format of presentations, presenters are invited not to give a formal talk, but rather to present on an aspect of their work of relevance to one of the themes above, e.g. a planned project, a theoretical concept, an emerging research idea. To further encourage an atmosphere of informal discussion, we would encourage presenters to not use powerpoint equipment, or at least to use it very sparingly, e.g. for data extracts or images.

Time	Programme
9:00am	Coffee and croissants
9:30am	<p>Welcoming address</p> <p>Peter Gilles, Professor of Linguistics, University of Luxembourg: Introduction to the multilingual situation of Luxembourg</p>
10:00am-12:00pm	<p>Session one: Luxembourg</p> <p>Presentations of 15 minutes maximum:</p> <p>Anne Franziskus, PhD candidate, University of Luxembourg: ‘Les pratiques linguistiques des frontaliers au Luxembourg: focalisation sur leur utilisation du luxembourgeois’</p> <p>Gudrun Ziegler, Associate Professor, University of Luxembourg (title tbc)</p> <p>Fernand Fehlen, Chargé de cours, University of Luxembourg: ‘Le statut du français au Luxembourg: une langue de prestige qui devient langue de communication’</p> <p>Julia de Bres, Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Luxembourg: ‘Advertising, medical communication and supermarkets: planned research projects on multilingualism in Luxembourg’</p> <p>Discussion</p>
12:00pm-1:00pm	Lunch at canteen
1:00pm-3:00pm	<p>Session two: Switzerland</p> <p>Presentations of 15 minutes maximum:</p> <p>Georges Lüdi, Institut d’études françaises et francophones, Université de Bâle ‘Le multilinguisme dans l’entreprise’</p> <p>Patrick Studer, Zürcher Hochschule für Angewandte Wissenschaften ‘English as a lingua franca in Swiss higher education’</p> <p>Alexandre Duchêne, Institut de plurilinguisme, Université de Fribourg ‘Multilingualism in the New Economy’</p> <p>Elena Pandolfi, Osservatorio linguistico della Svizzera italiana</p>

	'The status of Italian as a minority language in Switzerland' Discussion
3:00pm- 3:30pm	Coffee break
3:30pm- 4:30pm	Session three: Finding research links between Luxembourg and Switzerland Open discussion
4:30pm	Conclusion of workshop
7:30pm	Informal dinner in Luxembourg city

Languages

So that all the workshop attendees can understand the presentations, we propose that presentations be given in either French or English. Discussion can then be undertaken in any language.