

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION FOR SUPERVISION

SOCIOLINGUISTICS AND DISCOURSE STUDIES

In planning your thesis, you should seek supervision from the person with expertise in the topic/s and method/s you are thinking of pursuing. It is expected that you tailor your thesis to fall within the supervisors' areas of expertise; they are not available to supervise every and any topic. We strongly advise you to make contact with your prospective supervisor well in advance of your actual thesis semester so that you can sound out your ideas, explore options, and be sure the supervisor feels comfortable with your topic/s and method/s.

David Britain

Language variation and change, the dialectology of English (in its broadest sense – dialects of Englishes around the world, ideologies of dialect, perceptual dialectology, dialect contact, isolation and obsolescence, the dialectological consequences of migration and other forms of mobility), geolinguistics and the dialectology-human geography interface, sociophonology, Preferred methods: first, second and third-wave variationism, analysis of (incl. self-collected) spoken corpora.

Sue Fox

Language variation and change, urban multicultural dialectology and linguistic change, the language of adolescents from a variationist perspective, some areas of second language learning and teaching. Preferred methods: analysis of spoken corpora (pre-existing or self-collected) within the variationist paradigm or analysis of self-collected data (for second language learning and teaching).

Franz Andres Morrissey

Sociology of language (in particular language contact, language planning and relations with minority language groups, language attitudes and identity/ies, bilingual education); phonology and music, performance in story-telling and song, stylistics (language and literature, orality); language and education / second language acquisition and learning, applied linguistics and grammar(s). Preferred methodologies: ethnography, textual / microlinguistic analyses.

Crispin Thurlow

Language and new media (digital discourse); language and global mobility (tourism discourse); language and the workplace (professional discourse); language and class inequality (elite discourse); language and young people; language and sex/uality. Preferred methods: critical discourse analysis (written and spoken language) and social semiotics (visual communication, multimodal discourse).

Note for BA students: As you prepare to undertake your first substantive piece of independent research, one recommendation we have is that you find an existing study to replicate or at least to model your project after.

Note for BA students: We have excellent PhD students who you can rely on as “research colleagues” for advice about data collection, analysis, etc. You might run your ideas past them, for example, and see if they have data you could help them collect as part of your thesis.

Note for MA students: If you have any intention of conducting fieldwork and applying for financial support from the Dekanat, you will need to plan even further ahead than usual.