

Department of English

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION FOR SUPERVISION

SOCIOLINGUISTICS AND DISCOURSE STUDIES

MA- and BA-level supervision

The following teaching and research staff are available to supervise both MA- and BA-level projects. 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. By the same token, it is expected that you tailor your thesis to fall within their areas of expertise. Supervisors are not available to supervise every and any topic. As always, you are advised to make contact as early as possible to sound out your ideas, explore your options, and establish if the potential supervisor feels comfortable with your topic/s and method/s.

If you are an MA student and you would like to conduct fieldwork inside or outside Switzerland, you can apply for financial support from the Dekanat. In which case, you will need to think even further in advance about your project.

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. See also www.davebritain.weebly.com

Sue Fox

Language variation and change, urban multicultural dialectology and linguistic change, the language of adolescents from a variationist perspective, language attitudes, and 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) or questionnaire and indirect methods (for language attitudes). See also http://www.ens.unibe.ch/about_us/staff/dr_fox_susan/index_eng.html

Hannah Hedegard

Language variation and change (LVC), world Englishes, sociophonetics, LVC in mass media, forensic phonetics, applications of sociolinguistics at the intersection of language and civil/human rights such as language analysis for the determination of origin (LADO) and multilingualism in legal contexts. Preferred methods: variationist sociolinguistic approaches, analysis of pre-existing or self-collected spoken corpora, ethnography (for LVC); identification and elicitation tasks, critical inquiry (for forensic linguistics). See also: https://www.ens.unibe.ch/about_us/staff/dr_des_hedegard_hannah/index_eng.html

Gwynne Mapes

Language and class inequality (elite discourse); language materiality (e.g. food and language); interactional sociolinguistics (e.g. analysis of recorded conversations); and language and (new) media (e.g. digital discourse). Preferred methods: ethnography; critical discourse analysis (written and spoken language); and social semiotics (multimodal discourse). See also: http://www.ens.unibe.ch/about_us/staff/dr_des_mapes_gwynne/index_eng.html

Franz Andres Morrissey

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

http://www.ens.unibe.ch/about_us/staff/dr_andres_morrissey_franz/index_eng.html

Crispin Thurlow

Four broad areas: (1) language, class inequality and elite discourse; (2) language, social media and digital discourse; (3) language, global mobility and tourism discourse; (4) language and sex/uality. Preferred methods: critical discourse analysis (written and spoken language) and social semiotics (visual communication, multimodal discourse). Professor Thurlow is especially keen to supervise students interested in collaborating on his SNF-funded project *Elite Creativities: Engaging the Language Work of Professional Wordsmiths*.

We strongly advise you to make contact with a prospective supervisor well in advance of your actual thesis semester to sound out your ideas, explore your options, and establish if the potential supervisor feels comfortable with your topic/s and method/s.

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.

Olivia Droze-dit-Busset: Media discourse; language work; digital discourse with a focus on self-branding and social media discourse; preferred method: critical discourse analysis of written and/or spoken language and social semiotics

Sarah Grossenbacher: dialectology, language variation and change, East Anglian dialects, dialect and mobility, dialect contact, dialect mapping/cartography, human geography, quantitative methods using R (e.g. statistical models, data visualization).

Lara Portmann: language work/ers; critical sociolinguistics; language/semiotic ideologies; digital discourse studies; interface texts; cultural politics of technology; discourse ethnography.

Danielle Tod: Language variation and change, World Englishes, language in the Pacific, language attitudes. Preferred methods: variationist sociolinguistic approaches, analysis of spoken corpora, ethnography (for studies of variation and change), matched/verbal guise.

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.