



Post Doc position (80%) at University of Zurich

Heritage Albanian in Switzerland and Germany

(SNSF/DFG project, 36 months, University of Zurich / LMU Munich)

Project summary

The project aims at gaining an encompassing picture of the linguistic practices of Albanian heritage speakers over 3–4 generations within different socio-cultural embeddings in Switzerland and Germany and at taking the resulting insight as a starting point for modelling mechanisms of language contact and change also for historical situations. The overall aim is thus twofold:

- 1) Utilise language perception and language awareness of Albanian heritage speakers to develop appropriate tools for keeping up and strengthening the heritage language and as a means of social participation
- 2) Investigate the influence of maximally controllable socio-cultural configurations on the evolution of specific linguistic structures within a multilingual setting

Within the project, three work packages will closely interact: A) Constructing identity: language awareness; B) Language use: multilingual practices & contact varieties, C) Language change: transfer & stability.

Core research team: two PIs (Sonnenhauser UZH, Riehl LMU), two cooperation partners (Widmer UZH, Selimi PH Schwyz), one postdoc (UZH), and two PhDs (UZH, LMU); s. <https://drive.switch.ch/index.php/s/SN3o00W5PXceQh6/download>.

Job description

The position to be filled is located at the interfaces of the three work packages mentioned above. The successful applicant will be concerned with the morpho-syntactic analysis of the data, the correlation of various data types and the modelling of language contact. Being located in Zurich, s/he will also be responsible for the coordination of the project team and their tasks, including the collaboration with the Munich team. The position offers the possibility of writing a cumulative habilitation thesis within the project framework.

The project is situated within the larger context of the University Research Priority Programme 'Language and space' at the UZH (www.spur.uzh.ch), which offers multiple opportunities for collaboration with historical and interactional linguistics, linguistic typology, psycholinguistics and language acquisition research as well as GI sciences and corpus linguistics.

Requirements

- PhD in linguistics; expertise in at least two of the following fields and willingness to familiarise with the others: language contact and language change, language acquisition and multilingualism, socio- and variational linguistics, language teaching methods
- Readiness to work within and contribute to an interdisciplinary research environment
- Ability to coordinate and lead the project team
- Familiarity (at least on a structural level) with Albanian and German is an asset

Start date and duration

3 years starting on April 1st, 2019 (preferably)



Salary

According to the pay scale of the University of Zurich (18/03, on a 80% basis).

Application

To apply for the position, please submit the following materials as an integrated PDF-file to the email-addresses mentioned below:

- cover letter, CV and list of publications
- names and email addresses of two academic referees (no letters needed now)

Deadline for application

February 3rd, 2019

Contact

Barbara Sonnenhauser (Slavic linguistics, UZH): barbara.sonnenhauser@uzh.ch

Paul Widmer (Comparative linguistics, UZH): paul.widmer@uzh.ch

Claudia Maria Riehl (German as a foreign language, LMU): riehl@daf.lmu.de