



PhD position 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 work packages A and C mentioned above, in particular at the interface of linguistics and language teaching methods. Being based in Zurich, the successful applicant will recruit informants in the Albanian speaking community in German speaking Switzerland, carry out data collection, and process and analyse the data (Albanian and German) in close collaboration with the Munich team. S/he will be involved in designing language teaching material and is expected to contribute to the dissemination of the project aims and results at scientific conferences and in the general public.

The successful applicant will join the Graduate School of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences (doctorate subject 'linguistics'; <https://www.phil.uzh.ch/de/studium/doktorat.html>) and write a PhD thesis (monographic or cumulative) 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

- MA in sociolinguistics, contact linguistics or related subfields, knowledge of fieldwork methodology
- Familiarity with Albanian and (Swiss) German
- Willingness to closely interact with the Albanian speaking community and conduct fieldwork
- Readiness to work within, and contribute to, an interdisciplinary research environment



Start date and duration

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

Salary

According to the pay scale of the SNSF (ca. CHF 48'000 per year).

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, excerpt of MA thesis, diplomas
- names and email addresses of two academic referees (no letters needed now)

Deadline for application

February 3rd, 2019

Contact

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