

GEOGRAPHICAL CONTRAST IN VARIATIONAL PRAGMATICS

30 July – 01 August 2025 | Bielefeld University

Venue Building X, Room X-E0-222 | Universitätsstraße 24, 33615 Bielefeld

Tuesday, 29 July 2025

19:00	WARMING UP Jivino Enoteca (Obernstraße 51, 33602 Bielefeld)
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Wednesday, 30 July 2025

09:15 – 09:30	Welcome and introduction Moderation: Tanja Ackermann & Anne Schröder (Bielefeld University)
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09:30 – 10:30	Keynote Jonathan Culpeper (Lancaster University) <i>Variational (im)politeness and the corpus-based approach</i>
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SESSION 1: SPEECH ACTS

10:30 – 11:00	Sabrina Guhe (PLUS Salzburg) <i>A corpus-based study of the expression of negativity in German online reviews</i>
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11:00 – 11:30	COFFEE BREAK
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11:30 – 12:15	Gerhard Matheus (Bielefeld University) <i>Do cultural factors influence the exchange of compliments? The case of rural and urban Namibia</i>
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12:15 – 13:00	Anke Lensch (University of Cologne) <i>"You don't thank your family." Intergenerational differences in the expression of gratitude in the English-speaking Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora</i>
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13:00 – 14:30	LUNCH BREAK
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14:30 – 15:15	Anne Schröder & Pawel Sickinger (Bielefeld University) <i>Two perspectives on Namibian English pragmatics. Contrastive and intracultural aspects of Pragmatic Profiling</i>
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15:15 – 16:00	Henrik Discher (FU Berlin) & Laura Fischhammer (PLUS Salzburg) <i>Diachronic and diatopic variation in German requests. High-imposition contexts since the 19th century</i>
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16:00 – 16:30	COFFEE BREAK
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16:30 – 17:15	Claudia Lange (TU Dresden) <i>Exploring the pragmatics of Indian English(es)</i>
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17:15 – 18:00	Sandie Fitchat (Swakopmund) & Pawel Sickinger (Bielefeld University) <i>Regional variation in Namibian English pragmatics. Contrasting data from rural and metropolitan contexts</i>
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Thursday, 31 July 2025

9:00 – 10:00 **Keynote** Jenny Nilsson (ISOF Gothenburg)
Does pragmatic behavior vary across geographical space?

SESSION 2: DISCOURSE MARKERS AND PARTICLES

10:00 – 10:45 Semra Kızılkaya (Bielefeld University)
Semantics, pragmatics and regional variation of inschallah in German

10:45 – 11:15 COFFEE BREAK

11:15 – 12:00 Adama Drabo & Martina Drescher (University of Bayreuth)
The uses of voilà in Cameroonian and Ivorian French. Between discourse structuring and interactional anchoring

12:00 – 12:45 Philip Vergeiner (LMU Munich)
The functional spectrum of the particle eh in Austria and beyond

12:45 – 14:15 LUNCH BREAK

SESSION 3: NOMINAL AND PRONOMINAL TERMS OF ADDRESS

14:15 – 15:00 Valentina Concu (Leuphana University Lüneburg),
Wendy Valdez & Johan De La Rosa (Universidad del Norte)
Navigating social dynamics through nominal terms of address in Colombian Spanish. A variational pragmatics approach

15:00 – 15:45 Gerbrich de Jong & Maria den Hartog (Radboud University)
Pronouns of address in a job interview in Dutch and Frisian

15:45 – 16:15 COFFEE BREAK

16:15 – 16:45 Janel Zoske (FU Berlin)
Regional variation in German address practices

16:45 – 17:45 **Round Table** *Methods in variational pragmatics*

Discussants: Stephan Elspaß (PLUS Salzburg), Ulrike Gut (University of Münster) & Eva Ogiermann (King's College London)

Moderation: Tanja Ackermann & Anne Schröder (Bielefeld University)

19:00 CONFERENCE DINNER
Das Wirtshaus 1802 im Bültmannshof
(Kurt-Schumacher-Straße 17a, 33615)

Friday, 1 August 2025

09:30 – 10:30 **Keynote** J. César Félix-Brasdefer (Indiana University)
Pragmatic variation across highland and lowland pluricentric varieties

SESSION 4: METAPRAGMATICS

10:30 – 11:15 Jones Y. Anam (TU Dortmund)
Constructing (in)formal communities: A theoretical perspective on the perception of pronominal address in South African German

11:15 – 11:45 **COFFEE BREAK**

11:45 – 12:15 Philipp Striedl (University of Zurich)
Conceptualizations of (im)politeness and (in)directness across German speaking regions and countries

12:15 – 13:00 Afef Labben (University of Tunis)
Face conceptualizations across dialects of Arabic. A variational pragmatic study

13:00 – 14:00 **Round Table** *Future directions for variational pragmatics*

Discussants: Antje Dammel (University of Münster), Christa Dürscheid (University of Zurich) & Klaus P. Schneider (University of Bonn)

Moderation: Pawel Sickinger (Bielefeld University) & Horst Simon (FU Berlin)

14:00 – 14:15 **Conference closing**
Moderation: Tanja Ackermann & Anne Schröder (Bielefeld University)

14:45 **BEER GARDEN**
Brauhaus Joh. Albrecht
(Hagenbruchstraße 8, 33602 Bielefeld)