

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)

Wednesday, 30 July 2025

09:15 – 09:30 **Welcome and introduction**
Moderation: Tanja Ackermann & Anne Schröder (Bielefeld University)

09:30 – 10:30 **Keynote** Jonathan Culpeper (Lancaster University)
Variational (im)politeness and the corpus-based approach

SESSION 1: SPEECH ACTS

10:30 – 11:00 Sabrina Guhe (PLUS Salzburg)
A corpus-based study of the expression of negativity in German online reviews

11:00 – 11:30 COFFEE BREAK

11:30 – 12:15 Gerhard Matheus (Bielefeld University)
Do cultural factors influence the exchange of compliments? The case of rural and urban Namibia

12:15 – 13:00 Anke Lensch (University of Cologne)
"You don't thank your family." Intergenerational differences in the expression of gratitude in the English-speaking Sri Lankan Tamil diaspora

13:00 – 14:30 LUNCH BREAK

14:30 – 15:15 Sandie Fitchat & Pawel Sickinger (Bielefeld University)
Regional variation in Namibian English pragmatics. Contrasting data from rural and metropolitan contexts

15:15 – 16:00 Henrik Discher (FU Berlin) & Laura Fischhammer (PLUS Salzburg)
Diachronic and diatopic variation in German requests. High-imposition contexts since the 19th century

16:00 – 16:30 COFFEE BREAK

16:30 – 17:15 Claudia Lange (TU Dresden)
Exploring the pragmatics of Indian English(es)

17:15 – 18:00 Anne Schröder & Pawel Sickinger (Bielefeld University)
Two perspectives on Namibian English pragmatics. Contrastive and intracultural aspects of Pragmatic Profiling

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

(Location will be announced soon)