

cfp

International conference

„Minority Languages in the Digital Age. Usage, Maintenance, and Teaching“

23.-24.04.2020

at Alfried Krupp-Wissenschaftskolleg/Greifswald (Germany)

Digital media determine essential parts of everyday communication in the 21. century. Among their characteristics are communicative practices of participation and sharing (Schroeder 2017), thus changing the established pattern of one-to-many communication which used to be conventional for the mass media (Luginbühl 2015). This development particularly affects speakers of so-called minority or regional languages, such as Friesian, Sorbian, Romanes or Low German (ML). The effects of digital mediatisation are manifold (Reershemius 2015), and within the framework of ML the question is repeatedly raised as to whether Web 2.0 can lead to new communities of practice and thus new ways of using smaller languages (for example Kelly-Holmes/Atkinson 2017). There are now a small number of case studies on how MLs are used digitally, e.g. Low German on Youtube (Arendt i.Dr.), or on Facebook (Reershemius 2015), Gaelic on Twitter (McMonagle et al. 2019), Sønderjysk in chat rooms (Westergaardt 2015).

The planned conference aims to extend the research context from MLs in the German-speaking countries to Europe and is interested in further data-based case studies on MLs in digital media and contributions to the theory of mediatisation of MLs. In addition, the conference aims to put special emphasis on didactic implications: what are the opportunities the digital age offers for the learning and teaching of MLs, e.g. for "new speakers"?

We welcome presentations addressing the following questions:

Language usage

- Which European MLs are used in digital media, and how? (Data-based case studies)
- Which digital practices of language use can be observed?

Language maintenance

- How can language maintenance be conceptualized in times of digitalization?
- Can digital communication and social media offer opportunities for efforts to maintain MLs?

Learning and Teaching of MLs

- How can digital communicative practices be applied in the teaching and learning of MLs?

Conference languages are German and English. Abstracts are requested **until 15.10.2019** (extended deadline) by email to arendt@uni-greifswald.de and g.k.reershemius@aston.ac.uk

Literature

- Arendt, B. (i.Dr.): Wie sagt man hier? Bewertungen von Dialekt, Regionalsprache und Standard im Spannungsfeld regionaler Identität und sozialer Distinktion. In: Antos, G. et al. (Hgg.): Handbuch Sprache im Urteil der Öffentlichkeit, Berlin, 333-352.
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- Kelly-Holmes, H./Atkinson, D. (2017): Perspectives on Language Sustainability in a Performance Era: Discourses, Policies, and Practices in a Digital and Social Media Campaign to Revitalise Irish. In: Open Linguistics 3, 236–250.
- Luginbühl, M. (2015): What is Media Linguistics? In: 10plus1: Living Linguistics, 9-26.
- McMonagle, S. et al. (2019): What can hashtags tell us about minority languages on Twitter? A comparison of #cymraeg, #frysk, and #gaeilge. In: Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development, 40:1, 32-49.
- Schroeder, R. (2017): Social Theory after the Internet? Media, Technology and Globalization. London.
- Reershemius, G. (2015): Kleinere, regionale und Minderheitensprachen im Web 2.0 am Beispiel des Niederdeutschen. In: Fredstedt, E. et al. (Hgg.): Modernisierung in kleinen und regionalen Sprachen. Hildesheim, 53-84.
- Westergaard, A. (2015): Revitalisierung von Dialekt in den neuen Medien. In: Fredstedt, E. et al. (Hgg.): Modernisierung in kleinen und regionalen Sprachen. Hildesheim, 33-52.

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