

## CALL FOR PAPERS

**39<sup>th</sup> International LAUD Symposium**  
**August 3-6, 2020**

**University of Koblenz-Landau**  
**Landau, Germany**

Landau is a small city surrounded by the Southern Wine Route district of the Southern Rhineland-Palatinate and close to the Black Forest (1 hour from Frankfurt airport)

It gives us great pleasure to invite you to join us at our Symposium with the overall theme:

**Multilingualism in Africa:  
Language contact, endangerment and  
cultural conceptualisation**

**Confirmed plenary speakers:**

Samuel Atechi  
*University of Yaoundé I, Cameroon*

Susan Coetzee-van Rooy  
*North-West University, South Africa*

Yamina El Kirat El Allame  
*Mohammed V University, Rabat, Morocco*

Jacqueline Lück  
*Nelson Mandela University, Port Elizabeth, South Africa*

Sinfree Makoni  
*The Pennsylvania State University, USA*

Rajend Mesthrie  
*University of Cape Town, South Africa*

Salikoko Mufwene  
*University of Chicago, USA*

Josef Schmied  
*Chemnitz University of Technology, Germany*

In retrospective, the Conference is dedicated to the South African scholar **Neville Alexander** (1936-2012), a public intellectual, language planner, educationist (and plenary speaker at LAUD 2004). He devoted more than twenty years of his professional life to defending and promoting multilingualism in post-apartheid South Africa and thus became one of the major proponents of linguistic diversity and multilingual education.

### **Scope and aims:**

This Symposium provides an interdisciplinary perspective on multilingual Africa as a linguistic, sociolinguistic and cultural arena, as well as an analysis of specific linguistic regions in various parts of the African continent. Amongst other topics, the multilingual nature and linguistic diversity of African regions will be at the centre of discussion with a respective focus on languages in education and the issue of endangered languages. The Symposium will also demonstrate the relevance of the cultural conceptualisations encoded in language (e.g. New Englishes) to all aspects of human life in African society. The Symposium is concerned with the sociolinguistic and culture-specific situations in many parts of Africa and centres on the nature and manifestations of the impact of globalisation on African languages. The overall aim of the conference is to explore a wide range of linguistic and cultural phenomena and factors that influence African languages within the context of global change with far-reaching consequences to future generations throughout the African continent.

**NB:** The Symposium is *not* concerned with linguistic-systematic analyses of African languages per se, but rather with macro-sociolinguistic issues pertaining to African languages and globalisation.

*We kindly invite you to submit abstracts related to one of the following three thematic sessions.*

#### **Theme Session 1:**

##### **Multilingualism, translanguaging and language contact in Africa**

The Symposium challenges the idea of languages as discrete, countable entities and favours the concept of translanguaging as a new approach to multilingualism. Translanguaging assumes that bilinguals/multilinguals have only one complex linguistic repertoire from which they select features that are socioculturally appropriate. Thus, this session is concerned with the nature of the translanguaging repertoires of people in the African continent (African languages, varieties of African Englishes, pidgin and creole languages, languages of wider communication, etc.) by focussing on language policy/planning issues, language contact phenomena (such as

borrowing, codeswitching and codemixing) as well as linguistic landscape studies, i.e. issues of visual multilingualism in the public space.

*We invite abstracts for presentations on the following sub-themes:*

- multilingualism, translanguaging and polyglossia in urban and rural Africa
- effects of the spread of English from colonialism to the “New World Order”
- language policy/planning, ideologies and attitudes
- linguistic landscapes in urban African spaces
- the sociolinguistics of the city
- African languages in legislation and policies
- language contact and diversity: codeswitching, codemixing, borrowing
- sociolinguistic investigations of pidgin and creole languages
- languages of wider communication
- African sign languages

### **Theme session 2:**

#### **Language endangerment and language-in-education policies in Africa**

This session examines the richness and complexity of linguistic diversity and language contact situations from the perspective of language endangerment, with a focus on case studies from various nations in Africa. In this regard, topics such as the diversification of languages, their adaptation to new ecologies, and the relation between linguistic and biological diversity (i.e. ecolinguistics) will be at the centre of discussion. In the context of globalisation, the impact of English (as well as French and Portuguese) on indigenous, African languages in different parts of Africa will be explored. The contemporary global processes of socio-cultural, economic and environmental disruption represent a threat to the world’s and Africa’s fast-declining linguistic diversity.

Strongly connected with the issue of endangered languages is the status and use of languages for educational purposes, including the issue of language rights. Still, most African governments hold on to exoglossic language policies in their educational systems, and the majority of African children therefore continue to be taught in European languages that are foreign to them. Millions of children in Africa do not get instruction in their first language. Thus, there is a dramatic sociolinguistic discontinuity between their pre-school cognitive categories and the more abstract re-categorisation which the primary school normally effectuates. Therefore, the current discussion of mother-tongue education vs. learning via non-African, European languages as media of instruction in Africa has always been and still continues to remain a highly controversial debate.

*We invite abstracts for presentations on the following sub-themes:*

- early developments: colonial language-in-education policies
- linguistic implications of colonisation and decolonisation
- language, ecology and environment (ecolinguistics)
- linguistic diversity and endangerment: case studies
- Eurocentrism vs. perspectives from within Africa
- modernity and the globalisation of English/French: the fate of African languages
- language policy, inequity and linguistic human rights
- critique of the endangered-languages movement: the cost and benefit approach to language loss
- the empowerment of African languages
- feminist language planning: women and voice in Africa
- attitudes, beliefs and ethnic identity
- documentary linguistics
- the place and role of African languages in education (health, economy, governance, technology, and law)
- the mother tongue-based education debate
- media, information technology and language planning

### **Theme session 3:**

#### **Cultural Linguistics and varieties of African Englishes**

One of the more recent strands or orientations in Cognitive Linguistics refers to the newly developed field of Cultural Linguistics, a multidisciplinary area of research that explores the relationship between language and cultural conceptualisations and its key notions of cultural cognition, cultural schema, cultural category, and cultural metaphor. The analytical tools of Cultural Linguistics can produce in-depth and insightful investigations into the cultural grounding of language in several domains and subdisciplines, including New Englishes such as West African English. This session focusses on the “global localisation” of African Englishes, i.e. the localisation of the English language by indigenous populations to encode and express their own cultural conceptualisations, including their world views. Varieties of English provide rich data regarding how one and the same language may be associated with different systems of cultural conceptualisations, and this phenomenon needs much further examination, in particular from an empirical perspective. It also has far-reaching implications for the description of these varieties, i.e. for the compilation of variety-specific dictionaries.

*We invite abstracts for presentations on the following sub-themes:*

- anthropological linguistics and cognitive linguistics
- language and conceptualisation: the African community model
- the debate of post-colonial English: cultural models of global languages
- rationalist and romantic conceptions of language
- African cultural conceptualisations and linguistic expressions
- cultural linguistics and religion in Africa
- cultural conceptualisations in African Englishes
- cultural linguistics and intercultural communication
- cultural linguistics and linguistic relativity
- multimodality of expression of emotions in African languages
- embodied conceptualisation of e.g. 'feeling' as compared to the Western notion of 'emotion'
- embodied cultural metaphors
- the creation of electronic dictionaries in lexicography, computational linguistics and intercultural communication

The Symposium will be organised as plenary sessions for keynote addresses from invited speakers and thematic parallel sessions for presentations of papers.

#### **CONFERENCE FEES**

Regular participants: EUR 90  
PhD students & guests: EUR 45

#### **ABSTRACTS**

Submissions are solicited for theme session presentations which should last for 20-25 minutes with 5-10 minutes for discussion (maximum 30 minutes total).

All submissions for presentations should be in line with the following abstract guidelines:

The deadline for abstracts is  
**July 1, 2019**

Abstracts should be submitted to

**<puetz@uni-landau.de>**  
and  
**<polzenhagen@uni-landau.de>**

Abstracts should *not* exceed 500 words (excluding references and title) and should *not* include the authors' names.

The subject header of the submission email should include:

**Abstract LAUD 2020 – name/s of author/s**

Please provide the following information in the main body of your email:

**name/s of author/s, affiliation/s, email address/es, presentation title**

Please also state for which of the **3 theme sessions**, as listed above, your contribution is intended.

Notification of acceptance will be given by **August 1, 2019**.

### **LOCAL CONFERENCE ORGANISERS**

Martin Pütz, Frank Polzenhagen, Monika Reif, Neele Mundt

#### **University of Koblenz-Landau**

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### **Organising Committee LAUD 2020**

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