

## Call for Papers

Swiss Association for Applied Linguistics

VALS-ASLA Conference 2016

### **The Process of differentiation: language practices in social interpretation**

University of Geneva, January 20-22, 2016

#### **Plenary Speakers**

Alexandre Duchêne, University of Fribourg

Penelope Eckert, Stanford University

Jürgen Erfurt, Goethe-University Frankfurt am Main

Silvana Ferreri, University of Tuscia, Viterbo

Philippe Hambye, Catholique University of Louvain

#### **Theme**

If heterogeneity is inherent in the use of natural languages, differences in language practices contribute to social differentiation only when identified and interpreted (consciously or unconsciously) through different filters. Thus, based on the representations users in social groups have, certain language practices can become symbols, while others will be processed or ignored. The social meaning of a linguistic practice, however, is not stably bound to a particular social group: its inclusion in a network of equivalences and contrasts depends on the sociolinguistic configuration of a verbal interaction. As a result, language practices can be redeployed in new configurations to signal new social boundaries. The speakers' identifications, however, are not only determined by their own volition. The differentiation process involves, in effect, an interaction between external forces and the desire of a group to distinguish themselves from others in a social space.

The aim of the conference is thereby to examine the role of language use in the construction of boundaries (ethnic, geographic, etc.) in different social spheres (education, labor market, political speech, etc.). This conference will also address the challenges of the differentiation process, insofar as the very activity of creating borders – in its scope as inclusive and exclusive – involves the legitimacy of certain social affiliations.

## **Papers can focus on any of the following sub-themes:**

### **1. Differentiation in use**

How can membership in one or several groups be characterized regarding use ?

- language practices and multiple membership (cultural, social...)
- language practices and the effects of style
- negotiating of borders during interaction

### **2. Differentiation, representations and ideologies**

How are language practices interpreted ?

- differentiation, representations and diversity management
- rise of and conflict between language ideologies
- the role of ideology in the interpretation of language practices

### **3. Perceived Differentiation**

What are the mechanisms, processes and signs that permit the identification of a subject for speaking ?

- interaction of verbal and non-verbal markers
- perceived salience and identification of a speaking subject
- the role of the context of interaction in the perception of language practices

### **4. Differentiation and professional practices**

What aspects are present in the process of differentiation in professional spheres ?

- functions and usefulness of specialized language
- perception and management of differences
- analysis and description of varied contexts (media, politics, sports, law, medicine, etc...)

### **5. Differentiation and education**

How is the difference considered in education ?

- demonstrating forms and types of difference
- functions and consequences of differentiation
- differentiation issues in teaching, learning, assessment and training

## ***Submission of contributions and registration***

### **Types of contributions**

Proposals for papers, panels and posters should fall into one of the following five conference formats. The corresponding sub-theme must be mentioned in the proposal.

#### **Individual Paper**

A presentation of 20 minutes followed by a discussion of 10 minutes. The abstract (without any bibliography) should not be longer than 3000 characters (spaces included) and should include the research question (highlighting its originality), the methodology, the results and their implications.

## **Panel**

This is a 90 minute thematic session comprised of 2-4 presentations and a discussion. The person responsible for the panel should state the order of speakers and indicate who the discussant will be. The submission should include a general description of the panel comprising the principal issue of the panel, the theoretical and methodological framework and highlight the originality of the question (without any bibliography, a maximum of 3000 characters spaces included). Panel submissions are evaluated and accepted globally. After accepting a panel submission, each member of the panel must register individually on the ConfTool website.

## **Poster**

Poster sessions must use A0 format with portrait orientation, and be accompanied by an oral presentation during the specific poster sessions. The abstract (without any bibliography) should not exceed 3000 characters (spaces included) and should include the research question (highlighting its originality), the methodology, the key results and their implications.

## **Submission of Proposals**

In order to submit a proposal for a paper, a panel or a poster session, please create an account on the ConfTool platform using the link below. The primary presenter should submit an abstract (without any bibliographic references) of approximately 3000 characters (those organizing a panel must also submit the abstracts of the other individuals on the panel. (link : [www.unige.ch/vals-asla-2016](http://www.unige.ch/vals-asla-2016)). Please do not include any names on the proposal abstracts.

The same ConfTool account can be used to register for the conference.

## **Conference Languages**

The languages spoken at the conference include German, French, Italian and English and proposals can be submitted in any of those four languages. The language used for the abstract will be the same language used for the presentation.

Acknowledging at least one other language in the presentation (ex., ppt slides) is highly recommended.

## **Deadlines for Submissions and Registration**

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|--|-------------------------|
| - proposal deadline                      | <b>July 31, 2015</b>    |
| - feedback from the conference committee | <b>October 31, 2015</b> |
| - deadline for registration              | <b>December 8, 2015</b> |
| - deadline for online registration       | <b>January 10, 2016</b> |

## Registration fees

Early registration, before December 8, 2015	Fr. 120.–	(100.– for VALS-ASLA members)
Registration after December 8, 2015	Fr. 140.–	(120.– for VALS-ASLA members)
Student registration (with I.D.) and auditors	Fr. 90.–	(70.– for VALS-ASLA members)

Registration fees cover entry into the conference, a personal folder (program, materials), the lunches and the coffee during the breaks.

## Gala Dinner

A gala dinner will be held Thursday January 21st, 2016. Registration and a separate payment are required.

## Publication

The publication of the proceedings of the conference is planned in a special online issue of the Swiss Bulletin of Applied Linguistics (*Bulletin VALS-ASLA*).

## Information on the conference

### Organizing Committee

Daniel Elmiger, Ecaterina Bulea Bronckart, Laurent Filliettaz, Claire Forel, Laurent Gajo, Anne Grobet, Christopher Laenzlinger, Jacques Moeschler, Alexei Prikhodkine, Isabelle Racine, Françoise Zay

### Academic Committee (current : February 2015)

Rebekka Bratschi, Ecaterina Bulea Bronckart, Marcel Burger, Daniel Elmiger, Laurent Filliettaz, Mi-Cha Flubacher, Claire Forel, Laurent Gajo, Anne Grobet, Christopher Laenzlinger, Martin Luginbühl, Alain Kamber, Ulla Kleinberger, Johanna Miecznikowski, Jacques Moeschler, Lorenza Mondada, Elena Musi, Daniel Perrin, Alexei Prikhodkine, Isabelle Racine, Marta Zampa, Françoise Zay

**Website:** [www.unige.ch/vals-asla-2016](http://www.unige.ch/vals-asla-2016)

**email:** [vals-asla-2016@unige.ch](mailto:vals-asla-2016@unige.ch)