

Language and power: Exploring new global histories of language

Käte Hamburger Research Centre global dis:connect

Munich, 10–11 July 2025

9:15 **Registration**

9:45 **Valeska Huber:** *Welcome and introduction*

10:00 **PANEL 1 LINGUA FRANCA**

Diana Lemberg: *Priming the pump: American investments in globalising English since the 1940s*

Rachel Applebaum: *‘The planet is speaking Russian’: Soviet Russian language politics abroad and at home during late socialism*

11:30 Coffee

12:00 **Jürgen Osterhammel:** *World languages and empires: a variable relationship*

Reflections on the field

13:00 Lunch

14:00 **PANEL 2 STANDARDISATION**

Emmanuel Szurek: *What was global in the Turkish language ‘revolution’?*

Morgan J. Robinson: *The standardisation of Swahili*

Reflections on the Field

17:00 **Guided tour and conversation:** *Radio Free Europe building, Oettingenstraße 67*

19:00 **Dinner** at Conviva im Blauen Haus, Hildegardstr. 1

Friday 11 July

9:30

PANEL 3 MULTILINGUALISM

Amitava Das and Swati Guha: *Hegemonic 'Globish' (global standard English) and postcolonial disconnect: case studies of silenced vernaculars in Bengal, India*

10:15

Coffee

10:30

Kudzai Varaidzo Nherera: *Voices in transition: multilingualism, gender and colonial language policies in southern Africa*

Brian Sibanda: *Lingua francas and linguistic inequities: negotiating power in South Africa's post-apartheid language ecology*

Reflections on the field

12:15

Lunch

13:00

PANEL 4 ARTIFICIAL LANGUAGES

Bipasha Bhattacharyya: *Esperanto, science and South Asia: contact zones of a universal language*

Marcus Colla: *Red flag, green star: Esperanto as a language of international socialism in the Cold War*

14:30

Coffee

14:45

Pascale Siegrist: *'The gentle art of verbal self-defence': authority, authenticity and power in anti-hegemonic artificial languages*

Reflections on the field

15:45

Final discussion: new global histories of language