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Abstract – Sektion 5, Panel 1/2

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Thema *The subgrouping of Arabic dialects: a methodological shift*

By and large, Arabic dialectologists treat dialects as separate nodes of a language family, which assumes that they must be fit into a specific well-defined subgrouping. Discussion of the subgrouping of the Jordanian dialects, for example, specifically northern Jordanian dialects, has been dominated by this assumption. Are these dialects better classified with Palestinian dialects or Horani (southern Syrian)? My study attempts to view the issue of Jordanian subgrouping via the application of glottometry, which offers a a more fine-grained analysis of the historical relationships between different languages (Kaylan & Francois 2013). I aim to determine a) the suitability of glottometry to the study of Arabic dialects, and b) if such an analysis can offer a more subtle, accurate method for approaching the relationships between dialects.