



Afrikanistisches Kolloquium

Freitag, 03.05.2024, 12-14 Uhr,
Campus Westend, Seminarhaus SH 2.103

Valentina Serreli (Bayreuth)

Arabic and Berber in contact: Multilingual repertoires from a macro- and micro-perspective

The talk explores the multilingual repertoire of the community of Siwa, an Egyptian oasis located in the Western Desert that is home to both a Arabic- and Berber-speaking groups (the last being a minority language community in Arabic-speaking Egypt). I am guided by the assumption that a multilingual repertoire is one overall set of multisource features deployed by multilingual speakers both appropriately and arbitrarily. In other words, although patterns of language use have been found to correlate to some extent with objective and subjective features of the community (that help define appropriateness), actual sociolinguistic scenarios remain largely unpredictable, because people's attitudes and the local ideologies with which language behavior is associated are also unpredictable (i.e. they are ultimately arbitrary). Therefore, it is necessary to observe real practices in context. In this talk I will first outline the sociolinguistic profile of the Siwan community (macro-perspective) and then show how multilingualism is enacted in everyday interactions (micro-perspective). In particular, I will start by providing contextual information about the distribution, functions and values of the varieties of Arabic and Berber used in the oasis and the ideologies connected to it. Next, I will present a case study and analyze the behavior of three speakers in conversation, focusing on phenomena typical of language and dialect contact situations such as code-switching, code-mixing, transfer of linguistic material and linguistic patterns, language levelling, accommodation, and the usage of hybrid forms. I will provide an interpretation of the linguistic behaviors documented and link this micro-context with more general findings.

Valentina Serreli ist Juniorprofessorin für Arabistik an der Universität Bayreuth. Sie promovierte im Rahmen einer Cotutelle an der Universität Sassari (Italien) und der Universität Aix-Marseille (Frankreich). Die Doktorarbeit mit dem Titel „Society, language and ideologies in the oasis of Siwa (Egypt). Listening to people's voices“ wurde 2017 mit dem Dissertationspreis der Universität Aix-Marseille ausgezeichnet und war unter den zehn besten Arbeiten, die für den Joshua Fishman Award 2018 nominiert waren. Ihr Schwerpunkt liegt auf der Erforschung von Kultur, Gesellschaft und Soziolinguistik in der arabischen Welt.

Fachbereich 09
Sprach- und Kulturwissenschaft

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