

Urban Linguistic Diversity

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Urban linguistic diversity has been and continues to be a widely explored phenomenon in various branches of social and applied linguistics. Studies range from investigating urban accents and registers to exploring various crosslingual and translingual practices (mainly) among urban youth, and to documenting the visualisation of language in urban landscapes: linguistic landscapes. In this stream we want expand the documentation, description and examination of language practices, language dynamics in cities around the world by focusing on groups and individuals as well as aspects of linguistic diversity that (perhaps) have received less attention than the topics above. Examples include elderly people whose neighbourhood has undergone massive social, linguistic and cultural transformation, homeless people who are constantly moved from their sites, speakers of local or regional (endangered) languages that are seen to 'belong' to rural or non-urban areas. In this stream we would also like to expand the study of linguistic landscapes by including more work on urban soundscapes: the multiple and diverse linguistic sounds heard in cities. For example, which languages, linguistic practices are used or heard in cities and how do people react to the presence or absence of linguistically diverse sounds? Papers and research in any of these or related areas are welcome.