

ICL 2024 Language Documentation Panel

(Thursday, 12 September 14.30-16.00)

“25 years language documentation: What have we achieved and where do we need to go from here?”

Chair: Prof. Dr Katarzyna Dziubalska-Kołaczyk

Introduction: Dr Mandana Seyfeddinipur (ELDP)

Panelists:

Dr Katharina Haude (University Cologne, Gesellschaft für bedrohte Sprachen)

Dr Andrey Shluinsky (Hamburg University)

Prof. em. Felix Ameka (CIPL chair Ethnolinguistic Vitality and Diversity in the World, Leiden University)

25 years ago the field of language documentation was established in linguistics as part of a global response to increasing language endangerment. Linguists, activists and communities began or increased their efforts to document languages which were not learned and spoken signed by children. Digital language archives were created to safeguard the audiovisual collections created and funding bodies dedicated resources to the documentation of languages. Open access journals began to publish papers on topics in language documentation on theory and methods in documentation and conferences brought documenters together creating networks of exchange and support.

25 years later it is time to ask questions like how far has the documentation work come, what has been documented, what is still missing, and where do we need to go from here. In this panel we will address and discuss these questions. The panel consisted of specialist who have been involved in language documentation in different roles, from documenting language in different geographical areas, to teaching documentation methods, to funding and archiving documentation work.