



NEWSLETTER



WINTERSEMESTER 2023 - NR. 1

After a successful year 2022, with interesting research and fellows, we start into a promising year 2023. The Center resumes the bi-weekly colloquium with interesting talks from our fellows and invited speakers. All talks will be announced via the email list and we are looking forward to welcome you in the audience of our colloquia. The new year also starts with some news and changes.

A warm welcome to Dr. Chundra Cathcart as our new fellow at the Center, who will join us from January to June. And we welcome back Dr. Marisa Köllner in her position as scientific coordinator.

We are looking forward to a successful year 2023 full of research, fellows, and collaborations.

Dr. Chundra Cathcart



Dr. Chundra Cathcart is a diachronic linguist whose work as a qualitative and computational bent. His research group “Quantitative Diachronic Linguistics Group” is hosted at the university of Zürich. Dr. Cathcart joins the Center as a fellow from January to June 2023. At the Center, he is working on phylogenetic models and the evolution of sound patterns. More about his research and an abstract of the research project can be found online on the homepage of the Center (<https://uni-tuebingen.de/de/201838>).

Dr. Marisa Köllner (Scientific Coordinator)



Dr. Marisa Köllner is a linguist specializing in Contact Linguistics and Lexical Borrowing with a focus on the application and adaptation of computational models into this field of linguistics. Her main research interests include language contact, language change, borrowing and their corresponding parallels in phylogenetic, biology and bioinformatics. Within the Center she aims at widening her research with respect to other fields to gain deeper insights in the driving factors of language contact and lexical borrowing in the history of languages, societies and human evolution.

In addition, she is responsible for the scientific aspects of operating the Center, including fellowship applications, organizing Center events and colloquia, and assisting students and visitors affiliated with the Center in scientific questions and concerns.

More about her research and the contact information can be found online on our homepage (<https://uni-tuebingen.de/de/201412>).

Future Fellowships

Dr. Christin Beck, Prof. Nicholas Evans and Dr. Ronald j. Planer will be the next researchers joining the Center as fellows in March. Dr. Beck is a linguist focusing on the development of computational and corpus analytic methods for the investigation of historical language change. She is further interested in computational lexical semantics, the interaction between lexical semantic and syntactic change and the syntactic encoding of information structure.



Prof. Evans is a renowned linguist whose research revolves around the diversity of language, including the origins of such diversity and its cognitive and evolutionary implications. He has also done extensive fieldwork on indigenous languages in Australia and Papua New Guinea. His research foci include the detection of remote historical signal in linguistic data through computational phylogenetic methods and gaining a better understanding of the peopling of Sahul using linguistic and genetic data.

Dr. Planer's research project with the Center will aim to illuminate the evolutionary connections between stone-tool manufacture and the evolution of our theory-of-mind abilities, of which there are plausibly many. It will do so with an eye towards better understanding, among other things, the biocultural origins of human language. More information about his project is available on the homepage.

Colloquium

Our first invited guest in the colloquium is Dr. Bruno Baretto. He talks about **Long-Term History, Interaction, and Change: The role of language dispersals and exchange networks at the Amazon estuary (AD 0 – 1650)**. The colloquium takes place in hybrid format on Thursday, 2nd of February at 1pm.

Call for fellowship application

The Center is a forum of interdisciplinary discussion and research. Its fellowship program is a great opportunity to connect with the core staff and associated members to establish new, interdisciplinary ideas and research projects.

We would like to invite you to apply for a fellowship to work together with us in order to gain more insights in the human past from different research perspectives. The core staff and several local members are open to new collaborations as well as the associated Emmy Noether Junior Research Group "The Language Dynamics of the Ancient Central Andes" lead by Dr. Matthias Urban.

For more information on the Center and the associated members and research groups, please visit our homepage wordsandbones.uni-tuebingen.de

For more information on the fellowship program, please have a look at the description and information on our webpage (<https://uni-tuebingen.de/de/201430>) or contact our scientific coordinator Dr. Marisa Köllner (marisa.koellner@uni-tuebingen.de).

We would love to welcome you here in Tübingen at the Center "Words, Bones, Genes, Tools".

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