



**43. Jahrestagung der Deutschen Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (DGfS):
Modell und Evidenz, Freiburg i. Br.
23. 2. – 26. 2. 2021**

**43rd Annual Conference of the German Linguistic Society (DGfS):
Modelling and Evidence
University of Freiburg, Germany
23 – 26 February 2021**

Erstes Rundschreiben/First Circular

Liebe Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer,

im Interesse einer effizienten und inklusiven Kommunikation erlauben wir uns to switch into English for most of this First Circular. As you can imagine, organising this conference has been a bit of a roller-coaster ride. When we took on the task, we did the expected things, from identifying potential keynote speakers to looking around for venues accommodating conference dinners with 300 plus people. Taking stock of the situation last summer, we accepted that conference dinners and parties were unrealistic and agreed with the DGfS executive that we should go for a hybrid conference format, combining offline and online elements. We duly started discussing disinfectants and hygiene plans instead of hotels and parties. In late October, finally, with no improvements in sight on the pandemic front, our hygiene plans had been overtaken by reality and we reluctantly took the decision to go for a fully digital format.

The good thing in all this has been that our invited speakers, all the working groups/sections and all pre-conference satellite events have remained loyal to us and are still on board. In addition to thanking you all for this loyalty, we, the local organisers, would like to use the opportunity of the First Circular to disseminate some important information.

(1) Digital infrastructure

We will provide the technical infrastructure (Zoom) for all academic events (keynote talks, working groups, satellite and general events). We'll operate a decentralised system whereby we will directly manage the plenary components, but delegate this responsibility for the satellite events and working

groups to the responsible organisers. Achim Rabus, the member of the local organising committee in charge of 'digital', will approach you with details in due course. If you have questions, please take them to him directly (achim.rabus@slavistik.uni-freiburg.de).

We realise that conferences are not only about formal presentations and discussions, but also about socialising and informal exchange of ideas. To provide digital space for this we are currently experimenting with a number of tools and formats and hope to provide more specific information in the Second Circular.

(2) Conference website and programme

- https://www.linguistik.uni-freiburg.de/43rd-annual-conference-of-the-german-linguistic-society-dgfs?set_language=en, English version
- https://www.linguistik.uni-freiburg.de/dgfs-jahrestagung-2021?set_language=de, German version

Check this site for regular updates of the programme. We will add abstracts for the papers in early January.

(3) Registration and registration fees

We have registered the five plenary speakers. As for all other participants in the main conference (organisers, speakers, members of the audience), we would like you to register through the website (<https://www.linguistik.uni-freiburg.de/43rd-annual-conference-of-the-german-linguistic-society-dgfs/registration-1>) and pay the conference fees applicable in each case. Money transfer should not be a problem within the Eurozone. Unfortunately, Paypal and credit-card options are not accepted by our university accounting department. Nor, for obvious reasons, can we offer a pay-on-site option. We are therefore happy to run a generous fee-waiver scheme for all those participants who face the usual **exorbitant and punitive banking charges** for international money transfer. Please check with Ms Claudia Kohler (claudia.kohler@anglistik.uni-freiburg.de) and/or type "fee waiver because of high banking charges" into the Comments text-box during registration.

To conclude with a final positive note: The digital format may have its constraints but also has one advantage, enabling working groups and individuals to present their research to people who would not have been able to travel to Freiburg for an offline conference. Section organisers and speakers are therefore invited to "spread the word" generously and, by doing so, to help us increase the impact of the digital conference. We are very much looking forward to your talks and discussions. Please do not hesitate to ask us any questions you may have.

Your local organising committee:

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