



**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**

Zweites Rundschreiben/Second Circular

Liebe Teilnehmerinnen und Teilnehmer, dear participants,

since we sent out the First Circular, enough has happened to warrant a second one. Conference preparations have developed smoothly over-all. As of 10 February, we have received 520 registrations (and are expecting a few more). Also, our website has been updated continuously and been expanded in the process, so that it now contains a full overview of the programme of the main conference and all pre-conference and satellite events, including abstracts for the session papers. You can check for yourself at:

<https://www.linguistik.uni-freiburg.de/dgfs-jahrestagung-2021/programm>

(German version)

https://www.linguistik.uni-freiburg.de/43rd-annual-conference-of-the-german-linguistic-society-dgfs/program?set_language=en

(English version)

In this circular we would like to provide you with **(1) important information about the technical side of things** at this digital conference and, **(2) some further news** and **(3) a polite reminder**.

(1) Technical infrastructure

- General set-up:

We will have separate ZOOM sessions for each of the 15 working groups (“AGs”) accommodating up to 300 participants, a separate facility for the Conference Desk and IT Support, and a larger plenary session accommodating 700-plus people for joint events such as the conference opening, the award of the Wilhelm-von-Humboldt Prize and, most importantly, the keynote talks. For access information on the pre-conference and satellite events check the conference webpage. Here we will present the relevant information for the main conference.

- How will I get access details?

Section organisers (“AG-Leitungen”) are autonomous hosts of their own sessions and may pass on access details to members of their core audiences at their own discretion. Access details for all sections (“AGs”) and all plenary events will be made available to all registered participants in a PDF-document on the conference website before the conference starts. For security reasons this PDF-document will be protected by the password: **(known to the participants)**

- “Gather!”: social life at the conference

We will use the Gather tool (<https://gather.town/>) to facilitate informal communication, mixing and socialising among participants and to host publishers’ and sponsors’ displays and events. The environment can already be accessed at:

<https://gather.town/app/cr6ecv4qTJepyKy2/DGfS2021>

Please enter this space under your own name. In the (admittedly unlikely) event of gate-crashers causing trouble, this will enable us to distinguish between legitimate participants and intruders. We readily admit that several members of the organising committee are novices to the world of digital socialising and assume that we are not the only ones. This is why a younger member of the team (Miriam Neuhausen) is currently producing a video that will provide an introduction and survival guide. This video should be available from 17 February on the conference website and on our YouTube channel (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCsJRhQyreZBFomByGsPWXiQ/featured>).

- Conference helpline (WhatsApp, SMS, phone)

If you experience problems during conference working hours or need help, you can call or text us at **0049-1573 9288163**. Less urgent inquiries can also be addressed to the conference desk by e-mail: dgfs2021-15@linguistik.uni-freiburg.de.

(2) Latest news

Two new items in the programme:

Thursday, 25 February, will feature two lunchtime events.

- 12:45-13:45: Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)
Dr. Helga Weyerts-Schweda, programme officer for linguistics, will discuss the various funding lines offered by the organisation and be happy to answer any questions you may have.

- 13:00-13:45: “Language Policies in Higher Education – A Comparison of Europe and Southeast Asia”
Bernd Kortmann (Freiburg) and **Azirah Hashim (University of Malaya)**, currently a fellow at the **FRIAS**, the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies) will take 15 to 20 minutes to present their views on the role of the national language(s) vis-à-vis English as the (primary) language of academic instruction and the special role that professional linguists should (or should not) play in devising relevant language policies. Azirah Hashim is a leading researcher on English in higher education in Southeast Asia. Both are keen to share and discuss their views with the audience. Bernd Kortmann has recently documented the language policies at major European universities in a position paper commissioned by LERU, the League of European Research Universities (<https://www.leru.org/files/Publications/Language-Policies-at-LERU-member-institutions-Full-Paper.pdf>).

(3) Reminder

Finally, a polite reminder that there is still a number of **presenters in the programme that have not registered** and a rather larger number of registered **participants who have not transferred their conference fee** yet.

In the First Circular we were pleased to note that all our keynote speakers and workshop organisers remained loyal to us after the switch to the digital format. We conclude this Second Circular by noting with satisfaction that this loyalty seems to have attracted a large audience from all over the world.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming you all at the 43rd Annual Meeting of the *Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft* (DGfS).

Your local organising committee:

Freiburg, 11 February 2021

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