



Panel title: **The sociolinguistics of West African migrations and mobilities**

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The spatial dynamics of languages in West Africa have often been described as movements of entire communities, into places where other people and languages resided, resulting in forms of linguistic convergence and contact. With the emergence of new mobilities in the context of globalization and new forms of language distribution, for example through mobile communication, the focus changes. The conceptual shift that is currently under way manifests itself in a general skepticism about the assumptions of stable and well-defined speech communities as well as about regularity in linguistic change. By turning the gaze to the creativity of the individual, agency in intentional language change, forms of informal learning, and the diversity in mediation, the process of language community reproduction is increasingly seen as being messy and complex. This panel wants to draw attention to the sociolinguistic realities of West African migrations by focusing on the practices and agencies of people, in order to shed light on the dynamics of linguistic repertoires, multiplicities of language ideologies, multilocalities of languages and complexities of communicative practices.

The panel is intended to attract contributions on

- language and conflict in West Africa
- linguistic repertoires of refugees
- language and migrant labor
- language in tourism: West African languages on the move in Europe
- mediation and mobile communication
- language of popular music in West Africa
- linguistic repertoire of Christian Pentecostals

among other topics on the sociolinguistics of West African migrations and mobilities.