



Variation in Language Acquisition 6 (ViLA6)

Pre-Conference Workshop on “*Methodologies and Best Practices in Language Attitudes Research*”

Lauren Schmidt (San Diego State University)

University of Potsdam, Campus Griebnitzsee, House 6, Room S12

Monday, 17th of March, 2025, 14:00-16:00 c.t.

Participation is free, but please register by March 10th via e-mail to vila6@uni-potsdam.de

Workshop Description

In this workshop, we will explore key research methods in the study of language attitudes – those evaluative reactions individuals have towards different language varieties or their speakers – an important, yet often-overlooked, dimension of language acquisition that can profoundly shape language learning experiences and outcomes (Ryan & Giles 1982). Through hands-on engagement, attendees will become familiar with the design and implementation of various methodological approaches such as variations of the matched-guise technique and interview protocols, as well as advantages and limitations associated with each approach and critical factors and issues to consider when designing language attitudes instruments and interpreting data. The workshop will feature concrete examples from recent studies that demonstrate how these methods can be applied to uncover the complex relationships between attitudes towards socially meaningful linguistic variation and language acquisition.

References

Ryan, E. B., & Giles, H. (1982). *Attitudes towards language variation*. London: Edward Arnold.