Historical multilingualism in the 19th century: Multilingual practices of semi-public writing in the Duchy of Schleswig

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The former Duchy of Schleswig, spanning today's German-Danish border region, is characterized by and known for its unique and enduring quintolingualism. The region's languages have been characterized as *autochthonous*, Low German, South Jutish, and North Frisian, spoken as the mother tongue of the majority of the region's inhabitants, and *allochthonous*, the standard languages, High German and Rigsdansk, which served as the languages of education and written communication. The combination of these languages – both visible and *invisible* (Langer & Havinga 2015) – and how they were and are treated in discussions of language and language histories, have been greatly ignored in the historical treatment of these regions.

In this talk, I introduce three case studies, which are part of a larger study called, "**Visibilizing Normative Regional Historical Multilingualism (ViNoRHM): Ideology, Policy, and Practice**", focusing on the everyday language used by everyday people of this region. The goal of the overall project is to reimagine how we think and write about language histories, creating a comprehensive regional multilingual language history of the Duchy of Schleswig.

The three case studies presented here, introduce non-traditional or previously underutilized text types in historical sociolinguistics. The multilingual practices of the three different text types all exhibit multiple authorship, allowing for greater insight into the language communities they represent. All are semi-formal and semi-public text types. Each of the three case studies, a collection of *Dienstbücher* 'servant character reference books', a collection of *Stammbücher* 'memory albums', and the *Ranzelberg Gästebuch* 'Ranzelberg Guest Book', exhibit linguistic trends distinct for each of their individual 'speech communities', while also sharing several commonalities across the region. The comparison of the three text types includes not only linguistic data, but also addresses the sociohistorical and sociopolitical settings in which they were each created.