



Inaugural Symposium
of the
Dahlem Center for Linguistics

20.06.2025

4 p.m. | Hörsaal 1a

The linguists of Freie Universität Berlin are happy to announce the launch of the

Dahlem Center for Linguistics

The new center will serve as a hub for linguistic collaboration and as a communicative interface connecting Berlin's diverse linguistic research with the world.

We cordially invite you to the **inaugural symposium** of the Dahlem Center for Linguistics, which will take place on **June 20, from 4 p.m. onwards** in **Hörsaal 1a**, Rostlaube (Habelschwerdter Allee 45).

As one of the highlights of this event, we will welcome **Bert Remijsen** to Freie Universität Berlin. He will implement his recent **ERC Synergy Project NILOMORPH**, which investigates complex meanings expressed by subtle differences in pitch, duration, and voice quality in monosyllabic words in Sudanese languages.

His lecture will be accompanied by three more presentations on African languages by researchers from the Berlin / Brandenburg area:

Mandana Seyfeddinipur, director of the *Endangered Languages Documentation Program* at Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities, will highlight critical gaps in the documentation of African languages.

Malte Zimmermann, semanticist at Universität Potsdam with extensive expertise in West African languages, will share his insights on definiteness in the West African languages Akan and Hausa.

Uli Reich, linguist at Freie Universität Berlin, will explore the expression of information structure in Wolof, the dominant language in Senegal and Gambia.

The symposium will conclude with a poster session showcasing the wide range of current linguistic research projects at Freie Universität Berlin.

After the academic program, please join us for finger food, drinks, and music to celebrate the launch of the Dahlem Center for Linguistics.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to Dahlem!

Julia Heine, Elena Karagjosova, Martin Konvička & Uli Reich (Organizing committee)

16:00

Introduction

16:10

**Mandana
Seyfeddinipur**

Language documentation in Africa: Blank spots on the map

16:40

**Malte
Zimmermann**

The meaning of DEF-marking, INDEF-marking, and bare NPs in Hausa and Akan: A micro-comparative analysis

17:10

**Uli
Reich**

Focus between morphology and prosody in Wolof

17:40

Break

17:50

**Bert
Remijsen**

Reporting live from the change to non-concatenative morphology in Shilluk

18:50

Inauguration of the Dahlem Center for Linguistics

19:00

Poster session

Linguistic research at Freie Universität Berlin

19:30

Party (Theaterhof)

