

Call for Papers:

YOUTH LANGUAGES

Variation – Dynamics – Continuity

8th international conference on youth language 2016
26/05/-28/05/2016, Karl-Franzens-University Graz



Oral and written communication among young people is characterised by a wide range of possibilities of expression which are, among others, grounded in the heterogeneity of youth groups and the constant change of youth language usage. Researchers now broadly agree that the idea of *the* youth as a uniform group and one homogenous youth language is inappropriate and that rather youth languages should be analysed in accordance with various communicative styles. Even though the theory of homogeneity has been given up, the question remains which common elements, repeating patterns and which continuities can be found in all groups that could be classified as features of youth communication. Against this background, critical questions concerning media- and communication research are trying to be answered. Current research also deals with the role of youth communication with regard to teaching/learning contexts as well as language change and enables national and international comparisons of youth expressions. Starting from a socio- and variation linguistic perspective, researchers have lately begun to focus not only on lexical and phraseological features, but also on typical or at least age-specific syntactic, prosodic, and general grammatical characteristics of youth language use. Over the last few years, these characteristics have been examined with regard to their pragmatic-functional effects, for instance, by inspecting socio-pragmatic functions of Language Crossing, Code-Switching, and Bricolage among others.

Language variability in youth communication, its dynamics in connection with social change against the background of inner and outer multilingualism, and recurring routines are the central aspects of research which will be dealt with at the 8th international conference on youth language 2016: *Youth Languages. Variation – Dynamics – Continuity*. Contributions from all areas of youth language research are welcome. The focus of the conference will be, among others, on the following topics:

- *Youth languages in urban centres* – What effects do multilingualism, language contact with migration languages and conversations in multi-ethnic groups have on youth communication?
- *Youth languages and dialect* – Which role does the language use of young people play between the poles of standardisation and dialectalisation?
- *Youth languages and empiricism* – Which empirical methods, especially socio- and variation linguistic field methods, are suitable for current questions within youth language research?
- *Perception of age-related language variation* – Should the frequent use of particular features in youth communication be viewed as the reason for salience? If so, which linguistic characteristics are salient, and they be connected to aspects of language change?
- *Youth languages and the media* – To what extent can an interrelationship between written and spoken youth communication be observed? Which role do grown-ups play within media-communication?

Institut für Germanistik
Sekretariat Prof. Dr. Arne Ziegler
☒ Mozartgasse 8/II, 8010 Graz, Österreich

☎ ++43/316/380-2443 ☎ ++43/316/380-9761

E-Mail: jugendsprachen@uni-graz.at

<http://jugendsprachen-2016.uni-graz.at>

- *Social constructions of youth – Doing Youth, Doing Peer-group, Doing Gender* are current key terms in youth language research. How can these procedures be described linguistically in an adequate way and can *Undoing Youth/Peer-Group/Gender* among young people potentially be determined by linguistic characteristics/structures?

We invite scholars and professionals to submit proposals (in English or German) before **15th May 2015**. Conference languages are English and German.

Proposals (title of presentation only) should be submitted via email to jugendsprachen@uni-graz.at.

Abstracts will be demanded at a later date.

Subsequent to the conference a publication of results is planned.

We are looking forward to numerous proposals.

Kind regards,
Arne Ziegler

Conference homepage: <http://jugendsprachen-2016.uni-graz.at/en/>