



“Multilingual worlds – neglected histories. Uncovering their emergence, continuity, and loss in past and present societies” Horizon 2020 Grant ERC-Consolidator Grant

The **San and Khoi Centre at the University of Cape Town** invites applications for a **PhD position** in the project “Multilingual worlds – neglected histories. Uncovering their emergence, continuity and loss in past and present societies” Horizon 2020 Grant ERC-Consolidator Grant (MULTILING-HIST) coordinated by the University of Warsaw, Poland. The fundamental aim of the project is to reconstruct, explain and better understand the mechanisms and causality of the processes behind the emergence, continuity, reduction, and loss (as well as possible re-emergence) of **multilingualism** in differing historical, geographical, social, political, and cultural contexts. The project embraces historical and contemporary multilingual milieus from four regions relevant for understanding the causal frameworks underlying multilingual trajectories, i.e., selected historical multilingual hotspots from Central-Eastern Europe, Mesoamerica, the Archipelago of Vanuatu, and **South Africa**. The case studies, including the South African part of the project, will offer a novel possibility to examine the ‘invisibility’ of multilingualism and uncover its neglected history(ies). To achieve these goals, the project adopts a multidisciplinary approach: it combines historical and contemporary data, qualitative and quantitative methods as well as mathematical modeling, data-driven mapping, and GIS mapping.

The position at the San and Khoi Centre will cover **3 years of PhD studies** at the University of Cape Town with the total scholarship sum of approx. **480.000** rand or 160.000 rand per year.

The PhD candidate is expected to study the **socio-historical aspects of multilingualism** in one of the **townships or suburbs** within the greater **Cape Town** area. The candidate will explore multi-level dimensions of historical and contemporary multilingualism and examine the synchrony and diachrony of multilingualism at an individual and societal level from a historical and sociolinguistic perspective. Among others, the candidate will focus on multilingual competence and socialization, vertical and horizontal transmission, inter-ethnic marriages and relationships, language ideologies, and linguistic practices. The candidate will use both qualitative (e.g., language biographies and language portraits) and quantitative tools (e.g., questionnaires developed in the MULTILING-HIST project) and investigate the various aspects of historical multilingualism through both archival and field research.

The successful applicant will be expected to:

1. complete their PhD dissertation within 3 years
2. conduct archival queries and analysis of historical sources
3. conduct fieldwork activities in selected communities in the greater Cape Town area, focusing on their sociolinguistic profiles (e.g., language attitudes and behaviors, language ideologies, multilingual competences, and other factors relevant for multilingual language ecologies)
4. analyze and interpret quantitative and qualitative data obtained in archival research and fieldwork
5. actively participate in the MULTILING-HIST project and collaborate with other team members in South Africa and overseas
6. prepare individual and co-authored publications resulting from the research.

The applicant is required to hold a MA degree in linguistics (preferably sociolinguistics or general linguistics) or related fields (e.g., history). The following aspects will be taken into consideration during the selection process:

1. experience in fieldwork
2. experience in archival queries
3. experience in qualitative and quantitative methods
4. expertise in (South African) multilingualism and (historical) sociolinguistics
5. knowledge of African languages of South Africa and other Indigenous African languages
6. Community-based activist work.

The prospective candidates should send the following documents to both Dr. Alexander Andrason (aleksand@hi.is) and Dr. Yvette Abrahams (yvette.abrahams@uct.ac.za) by the **30 November 2023**:

1. Curriculum Vitae in English
2. Cover letter in English addressing the requirements and motivation for why the applicant is suitable for this funded PhD
3. Two references
4. Copy/scan of the MA diploma and full academic transcript.