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Dr. Elena Buja’s research activity is mainly focused on child language (L1) acquisition and sociolinguistics. Her recent work deals with aspects of bilingualism within the Hungarian minority and among the Moldovans living in Romania, such as attitudes toward bilingualism, code-mixing and code-switching, as well as linguistic transfer. She also investigated the acquisition by the Romanian children of various aspects of their mother tongue, such as the verbal categories of tense and aspect or of the pronominal and adverbial clitics, as well as the role of connectors in children’s narratives.


Elena Buja is currently involved in an international project entitled Multilingualism in Europe as a Resource for Immigration – Dialogue Initiative among the Universities of the Mediterranean (MERIDIUM), aimed at improving the cultural and social inclusion of immigrant students and workers in receptor countries in Mediterranean Europe. The project is coordinated by the University for Foreigners of Perugia (Italy).

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Martin Ehala defended his PhD at the University of Cambridge on the theory of language change in 1996. Since 2008, he has been working for the University of Tartu (Estonia) as a senior researcher.
He has published widely on aspects of the structure of Estonian, as well as language changes in Estonian. Recently his focus has shifted towards the Estonian linguistic environment and ethnolinguistic vitality. He has developed an original model for assessing ethnolinguistic vitality. In this field, he has conducted a number of research and development projects, such as “The analysis, modelling and control of the Estonian linguistic environment” (2003-2007), “New language learning system in Tallinn University” (2006-2008), “Ethnolinguistic vitality and identity construction: Estonia in the context of other Baltic countries” (2008-2011).
Besides research, Martin Ehala has been actively engaged in developing methods of teaching Estonian as a mother tongue; he has authored six secondary school textbooks of Estonian and a number of teaching aids and materials. In 2003, he was awarded the Educational Prize of the President of Estonia for his works in the field of mother tongue teaching.
Since 2006, Martin Ehala has been a member of the Estonian Research Council and the head of the expert panel in humanities.
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Having studied in Berlin and Vienna, Ulrike Freywald graduated with a Magister Artium in German Linguistics, Historical Linguistics and Communication Studies from Humboldt-University Berlin and Free University Berlin in 2005. During her studies she has specialised in syntax and phenomena of ongoing language change.
In 2006 she was awarded a Graduate scholarship by the Berlin Federal State. In 2007 she took
up a position as an Assistant Lecturer in the German Department at University of Potsdam. Since 2008, she is working on the project “Grammatical reduction and information structural preferences in a contact variety of German: Kiezdeutsch” (PI: Heike Wiese), which is part of the Collaborative Research Center “Information Structure” of the University of Potsdam and Humboldt-University Berlin. Her research interests lie in syntactic theory, the syntax-pragmatics interface, information structure, and language change and variation. In her PhD thesis she works on the syntax and pragmatics of subordinate clauses in German. Since 2006 she has been teaching German linguistics at Humboldt-University Berlin and the University of Potsdam.

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Dr. Joachim Grzega, born 1971, studied languages at the universities of Eichstätt (Germany), Salt Lake City (USA), Paris-Sorbonne (France) and Graz (Austria). He received his PhD in Romance, English and German Linguistics in 2000 from the University of Eichstätt. Since 1998 he has been teaching English and contrastive linguistics the Katholische Universität Eichstätt, with interim professorships in Münster, Bayreuth, Erfurt and Freiburg. His research fields are: Eurolinguistics, cross-cultural pragmatics, intercultural communication, historical lexicology and pragmatics, language teaching, academic teaching, linguistics and socioeconomic issues. He has been an advisor for journalists on linguistic issues. Among the books he has written mention should be made of *EuroLinguistischer Parcours: Kernwissen zur europäischen Sprachkultur*. Frankfurt/Main: IKO. He has also published numerous articles in various specialist journals. He has founded and now hosts two internet platforms: *EuroLinguistiX (ELiX)* (http://www.eurolinguistix.com) and *Onomasiology Online (OnOn)* (http://www.onomasiology.de); both platforms include an academic journal of which he is the editor-in-chief. He invented the concept of *Basic Global English (BGE)* and coordinates the respective third-party funded BGE projects (http://www.basicglobalenglish.com) (one of which was integrated into a COMENIUS project). He has also taught at college and at a primary school and is the coordinator of the didactic project *LdL* [= acronym for German *Lernen durch Lehren* ‘Learning by Teaching’] (http://www.ldl.de). Joachim Grzega is also head of the *Academy for SocioEconomic Linguistics* (http://www.asecoli.com).

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She also has experience as a classroom teacher (France and Canada) and chair of languages (Canada and Germany) and has given graduate courses in Singapore, Australia, Malaysia and VietNam.
She began her work in Linguistics at the University of Strasbourg, a center of very active language research and language policy development because of the proximity of the European Council and Parliament.
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Kerstin Paul studied German Linguistics and Literature as well as Chemistry and Educational Studies at the University of Potsdam and graduated with a teacher exam in 2008. Afterwards, she was awarded a PhD scholarship by the German National Academic Foundation. In her research she focuses on youth language and multiethnic varieties, language variation, folk linguistics, and didactics of language teaching. In her PhD thesis she deals with the multiethnolect “Kiezdeutsch” as well as with related perceptions and educational implications.

She has been teaching German linguistics at University of Potsdam since 2008. Within her work at the Chair for Contemporary German Language (Prof. Heike Wiese), she has co-founded the informational portal <http://www.kiezdeutsch.de>, which has been developed especially for teachers and students. Moreover, she conducted several school projects on the subject of youth language in general and of Kiezdeutsch in particular.

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Nasser Rashidi has got his BA in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) from Shiraz University in 1991. He has got his MA in TEFL from the same university in 1995. He received his PhD in TEFL from Shiraz University in 2002. He is presently the academic member of the Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics at Shiraz University. His area of research is TEFL including language teaching and testing, discourse analysis and sociolinguistics. He has written a book and about 14 articles on topics in the areas mentioned.

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Anastassia works as a researcher at Tallinn University Institute of Estonian Language and Culture, as a guest lecturer at Narva College of Tartu University and as a training provider (e.g. Cross-Cultural Communication, Teaching and Learning in Multicultural Groups) at the Centre for Management and Human Resources Development of Tallinn University Open University. In December 2008, she got an award “Training Provider of the Year at Tallinn University”.


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His interests lie in pragmatics (speech act theory, (critical) discourse analysis), argumentation, and rhetoric. He is (co)author and editor of ten books (e.g. Argumentation in language and the Slovenian connective pa, Antwerp papers in linguistics, 84. Antwerp: University, IPrA Research Center, 1995), chapters in books and about a hundred articles. Recently, he contributed a chapter to Discourse and Transformation in Central and Eastern Europe (edited by A. Galasinska and M. Krzyzanowski), Palgrave, 2008, The European Public Sphere and the Media (edited by A. Triandafyllidou, R. Wodak and M. Krzyzanowski), Palgrave (May 2009), and a special issue of Journalism Studies, to be published in February 2009 (title: Division and Struggles of the Slovenian Journalistic Gild).

Professor Žagar has carried out a series of research projects in linguistic pragmatics, argumentation, media analysis, as well as in special didactics.

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