

Virtueller Gastvortrag im Forschungsforum der *GS eal*

Prof. Dr. Ruth Kramer (Georgetown University)

„A crosslinguistic investigation of phonological gender assignment“

8.11.2021 | 16:00 (c.t.) | Zoom

Abstract: According to classic typological research, grammatical gender can be assigned to nouns in several different ways. Gender can be assigned semantically (depending on social gender identity, animacy, etc.), morphologically (depending on the presence of a specific affix), or phonologically (e.g., depending on the final segment of the noun). In this talk, I take a critical look at the last member of this list: phonological gender assignment. I present the results of a crosslinguistic survey of phonological gender assignment as well as case studies of two languages that allegedly use phonological gender assignment: Hausa (Chadic) and Guébie (Kru). I argue that the crosslinguistic trends and the case studies point towards phonology *not* being involved in grammatical gender assignment and, more importantly, that a phonological gender assignment analysis is less explanatory than alternative approaches (it misses generalizations, makes typologically-unexpected predictions, and/or cannot extend to related phenomena). In Distributed Morphology, phonological gender assignment is predicted to be difficult at best because gender is assigned during the syntactic derivation and the syntax lacks phonological information. This result therefore provide support for Distributed Morphology, and against theories where gender is assigned in the lexicon with access to phonological information. I close the talk with plans for future work to investigate additional languages with (alleged) phonological gender assignment.

Zoom-Zugang:

<https://wwu.zoom.us/j/66012628868?pwd=UWxnVFBabndNaGVlUzdQTWd1cVBXZz09>