The LETiSS Center

The Center for Postgraduate Education and Research on “Languages of Europe: Typology, History and Sociolinguistics” (LETiSS) has been launched within the framework of the institute for advanced studies IUSS (Istituto Universitario di Studi Superiori http://www.iusspavia.it/).

It is the first center in Italy (and in Europe) specifically dedicated to the linguistic situation of Europe, approached from a variety of perspectives. More information on the aims, the research topics and the activities of the LETiSS Center can be found on the following website: www.iusspavia.it/eng/centri.php?id=23.

- The Center’s mission includes the following goals:
  - creating a reference point for research on the linguistic dynamics of Europe;
  - favoring international cooperation on language change and linguistic integration phenomena in Europe;
  - making European citizens aware of the linguistic diversity that characterizes Europe, through the interaction with local and national institutions (schools, local organizations, foundations, etc.).

- The research areas of the Center include:
  - Linguistic typology: the nature and complexity of cross-linguistic variation in Europe; Europe as a linguistic area; “exoticity” of European languages in a worldwide perspective; under-described languages and the
  - Historical linguistics: 3000 years of uninterrupted linguistic documentation and their importance in the understanding of language change; long-lasting contacts among languages and cultures in Europe and their impact on the linguistic profile of today’s Europe.
  - Sociolinguistics: linguistic consequences of immigration phenomena; preservation of dialects and non-standard varieties; problems of obsolescence and language death; the emergence of new urban varieties.


Scientific Committee of the Center:
Salvatore Veca (IUSS, Pavia), Paolo Ramat (IUSS, Pavia), Pier Marco Bertinetto (Scuola Normale Superiore, Pisa), Bernard Comrie (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig), Anna Giacalone (Università di Pavia), Maurizio Nemer (Università “L’Oriente”, Napoli), Wolfgang Klein (Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics, Nijmegen), Ekkehard König (Freie Universität – Berlin), Christian Lehmann (Universität Erfurt), Alain Peyraube (CNRS/EHESS), Vito Pirrelli (Istituto di Linguistica Computazionale – CNR, Pisa), Johan van der Auwera (Centre for Grammar, Cognition, and Typology, University of Antwerp)

Director of the Center: Paolo Ramat (IUSS, Pavia)

Scientific Managers: Caterina Mauri (University of Pavia), Andrea Sansò (Insubria University – Como)
The aim of the school is to enhance dialogue among young linguists interested in the topics announced in the title, under the guide of leading specialists. This is why the number of participants has been limited (see below), in order to facilitate interactions among them.

When and Where
The Spring School will last one week, from Monday the 6th until Friday the 10th April 2009, at the IUSS Institute in Pavia (viale Lungo Ticino Sforza 56, 27100 Pavia, Italy – www.iusspavia.it).

Who and What – Teachers and courses
1st course – Bernd Kortmann (Universität Freiburg i.Br.) Dialectology and Typology

2nd course – Thomas Stolz (Universität Bremen): Standard Average European

3rd course – Davide Ricca (Università di Torino): Dialects as Endangered languages

4th course – Suzanne Romaine (University of Oxford): Endangered languages and varieties in Europe

The students
20 advanced students in linguistics and related fields will be selected by the Scientific Committee of the School. The main criterion will be the degree of relatedness/pertinence of their research interests with the topics of the School.

Programme

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Applications
* applicants must have achieved at least the B.A. + M.A. level (= a five years cycle); therefore the students may be Ph.D. students, Post-docs, and young researchers;

* in the CV applicants should indicate any research activity and publication that may be relevant for the admission;

* applicants should also attach a short description (one two pages) of their past and ongoing research projects.

No tuition fee is required!!
Each participant will receive 250 Euros as partial refund for his/her travel and accommodation expenses, and a certificate of attendance will be issued at the end of the school.

Important dates
31st October: application through the form that will be downloadable from the website. At this stage, the CV + short description of the research projects must be attached (please write an e-mail to letiss@iusspavia.it).

30th November: the applicants who have been accepted will receive a communication with all the relevant informations.

15th December: the list of the accepted participants will be online.

Contacts
Organizers:
Caterina Mauri, Paolo Ramat, Andrea Sansò
Please send your application and any questions to: letiss@iusspavia.it

LETiSS website: http://www.iusspavia.it/eng/LETiSS

LETiSS Spring School 2009 website: http://www.iusspavia.it/eng/LETiSS.springschool