

Veranstalter	Martin Schweinberger
Thema	Diachronic Change and Variation [AA-A1, ENG-4, ENG-4a, ENG-5, AA-V1b, AA-V2b, AA-W, AA-M1]
Art der Veranstaltung	Seminar Ib
Veranstaltungsnummer	53-508
Zeit	2st. Di 12-14
Raum	Phil 1219
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“What can social history add to our understanding of diachronic language change? This question is ever more intriguing the more we learn about the role of social factors in present-day language variation and change. Once the issue has been raised, questions abound: have women been the agents of language standardization in the past in the same way as they are claimed to be today? What roles have the various social ranks played in shaping the English language across centuries? Can apparent-time patterns be used to predict the course of long term language change?” (Nevalainen & Raumolin-Brunberg 1996:3)

This course will address these issues by relating historical changes of the English language to social factors much in the same way sociolinguistics study present-day speech communities (Nevalainen & Raumolin-Brunberg 1996:3). In order to enable students to understand and address issues relating to the role that social factors have played in and throughout the history of the English language, this course will introduce participants to the basic terminology, concepts and the most prominent empirical studies related to the field of historical sociolinguistics.

Furthermore, we will use a “hands-on” quantitative and corpus-based approach to investigate language variation and change. We will therefore form groups which investigate different phenomena and variables. However, not only will each group work on different phenomena, but each member will have to perform specific tasks (so only a part of the group will have to do a presentation on the general topic of language change and variation, while another part will e.g. focus on creating a poster or present preliminary results to the class: this way you will end up with less work load, because not everybody will have to do all requirements).

CLASS MATERIALS:

- Nevalainen, Terttu & Helena Raumolin-Brunberg (eds.). 1996. *Sociolinguistics and language history: Studies based on the Corpus of Early English Correspondence*. Amsterdam: Rodopi.
- Milroy, Lesley & Matthew Gordon. 2003. *Sociolinguistics: method and interpretation*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.
- Labov, William. 2001. *Principles of Linguistic Change*. Vol. 2, Social Factors. Oxford: Blackwell.

Sprechstunde während der Vorlesungszeit:

Mi 16-17 Uhr, Phil 106