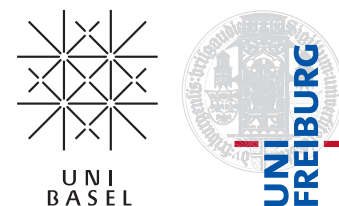


Graduate training past and present: Pilot study on the education and career paths of Freiburg and Basel linguists



Who exactly decides to pursue a doctoral degree in linguistics at the universities of Freiburg and Basel? And what sort of program do they choose? Do structured PhD programs offer advantages over traditional ones, and if they do, what are the cornerstones of successful structured programs?

These and other questions are currently being addressed in the pilot study *Ausbildungs- und Karrierewege Hermann Paul School of Linguistics* (Education and career paths HPSL) that started in May 2011 and is being carried out by Prof. Dr. Stefan Pfänder (Romance studies) and Prof. Bernd Fitzenberger, PhD (Department of Empirical Economic Research and Econometrics), and is funded by the *Ministerium für Wissenschaft, Forschung und Kunst* of Baden-Württemberg.

The survey aims to measure, describe and evaluate objective and subjective data within graduate studies, using the example of graduate studies in linguistics at the *Hermann*

Paul School of Language Sciences (HPSL), since January 1st 2012 the *Hermann Paul School of Linguistics Basel-Freiburg*.

Within the larger context of highly qualified young academics' training and career decisions, the PhD is not considered an isolated phase, but rather as one of the building blocks of an academic's career, though arguably a central one.

The first survey of the current PhD researchers and postdocs who are involved in the HPSL's structured doctoral programs was completed in October 2011, with a very high participation rate of 92% (104 participants).

Data is currently being collected from the comparison group of PhD researchers in traditional PhD programs in the area of linguistics. The comparison group consists of PhD researchers who have obtained their degree in linguistics at Freiburg University between 1960 and 2009. So far, the control group encompasses 130 researchers.

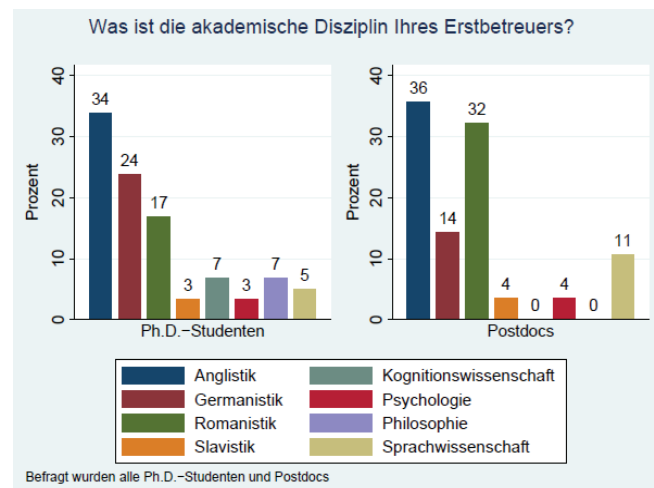


Graduate training past and present (cont.)

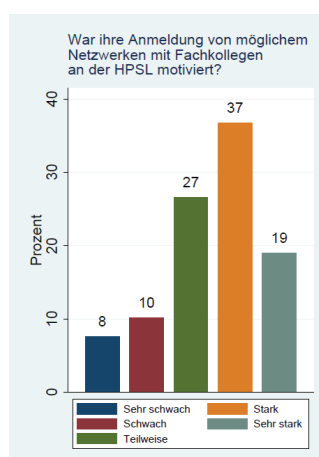
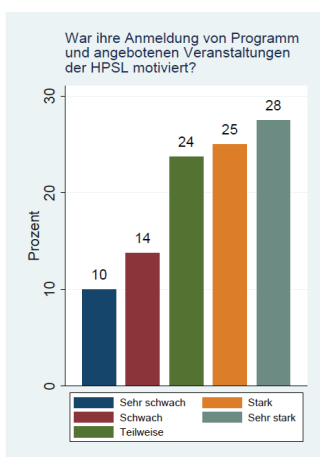
Answers to the questions outlined above are provided by the first results of the study among the current young academics in linguistics and related disciplines here at Freiburg University. The 113 participants of the study include PhD researchers (65%), postdocs (27%), and last year master students (8%).

Participants are distributed across different subject areas, including English Studies, German Studies, Romance Studies, Slavic Studies, Cognitive Science, Psychology, Philosophy, and General Linguistics (cf. graph 1 for distributions within the PhD and the postdoc groups). Equal opportunity policies within the HPSL can be shown to be effective, with 57% of all participants female and a total of 34% of international researchers.

The majority of participants cite networking opportunities and a vast selection of courses offered as their main motivation for joining the Hermann Paul School of Linguistics (see graphs 2 and 3 below).



Graph 1: Distribution of young academics across subject areas

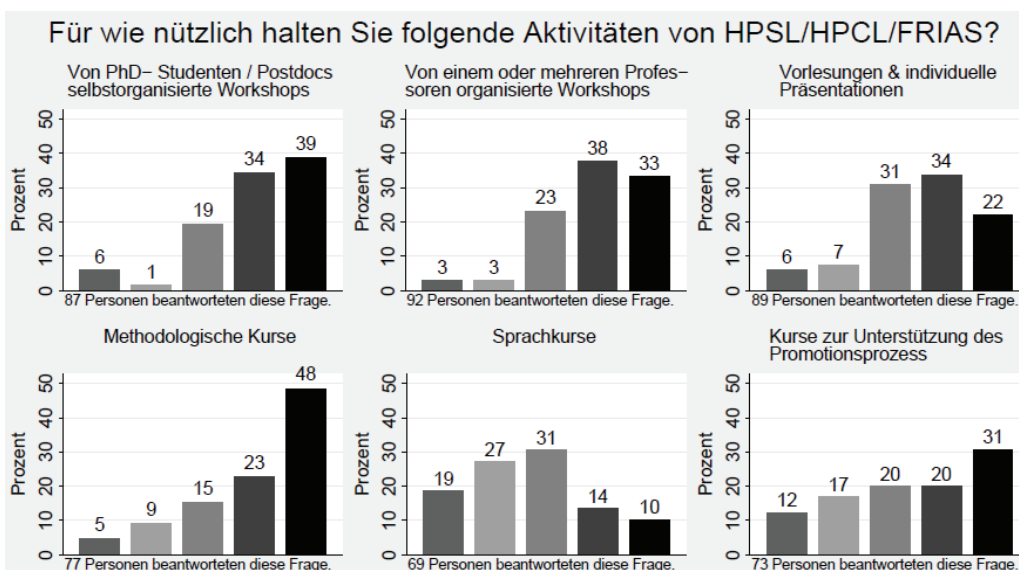


Graphs 2 and 3: Motivations for joining the Hermann Paul School of Linguistics

Courses offered at the HPSL include a wide selection of workshops organized by PhD researchers and/or postdocs, workshops organized by one or more professor(s), lectures and individual presentations by guest researchers and members of the school, language courses, and courses on methodology and transferable skills.

Participant feedback with respect to these courses is very positive (cf graphs 4—9 below). HPSL members are actively involved in the development and organization of the events and thus shape the curriculum offered by the school.

Overall, the results indicate that the different aspects of a structured PhD programs are received very well by the members of the school.



The question of how the present situation compares to the situation of PhD researchers in traditional, non-structured programs will be discussed in the next edition of our newsletter.

Stay tuned for the next installment of *Graduate training past and present: Pilot study on the education and career paths of Freiburg and Basel linguists!*

GRK 1624: Conception and the first generation of PhD researchers

**frequenz
effekte**
graduierertenkolleg 1624

The special research training group **GRK 1624** *Frequency Effects in Language* (DFG-Graduiertenkolleg) aims to carry out

empirically rich and methodologically co-ordinated research on frequency effects in language, with an empirical focus on standard and non-standard varieties of European languages. Frequency is defined in terms of number of occurrences of a given linguistic structure in a particular linguistic system or sub-system (as approximated by a suitable corpus). Frequency is assumed to be a possible determinant in usage-based models of language change, language acquisition and language processing.

While the default assumption is that there is a non-trivial relation between frequency of occurrence thus defined and mental and structural representation, the frequency factor will be investigated with a view both to its explanatory potential and to its limitations.



Karin Madlener, 1st generation PhD researcher, presenting her project during the opening ceremony of the GRK 1624 on July 1st 2010



Philipp Dankel, 1st generation PhD researcher, presenting his project during the opening ceremony of the GRK 1624 on July 1st 2010



1st generation PhD researchers during the opening ceremony of the GRK 1624 on July 1st 2010

In its integration of descriptive-linguistic and cognitivist approaches and its broad empirical corpus base, the envisaged research is without parallel, both on the national and international levels, and opens up a new, constructively critical approach to usage-based modelling in linguistics. The two-pronged approach – extending the breadth of empirical coverage, while at the same time increasing the sophistication of the theoretical models – is a timely one that has great innovative potential.

The first generation of PhD researchers within the special research training group include Philipp Dankel (now Basel), Nikolay Khakimov, David Lorenz, Karin Madlener (now Basel), Daniel Müller-Feldmeth, Péter Rácz (now New Zealand Institute for Language Brain and Behaviour), Malte Rosemeyer (now Freiburg), Michael Schäfer (now Freiburg), Ulrike Schneider (now Mainz), Marjoleine Sloos (now Groningen), and Luminita Trasca.



Michael Schäfer, 1st generation PhD researcher, presenting his project during the opening ceremony of the GRK 1624 on July 1st 2010

GRK 1624: The second generation of PhD researchers



Annette Fahrner

Annette Fahrner (German Studies, Prof. Dr. Peter Auer) has been a PhD researcher at the GRK 1624 since February 2013. Her project *Frequenzeffekte bei der Verwendung des Pronomens 'es'* studies the effects of the frequency of different types of constructions with the pronoun *es* in German on the learner German of native speakers of pro-drop Spanish. She hypothesizes that high-frequency constructions with *es* will be acquired faster and more successfully.



Boniface Nkombong

Boniface Nkombong (Italian studies, Prof. Dr. Stefan Pfänder) has been a PhD researcher at the GRK 1624 since October 2012. His project *The effect of L1 constructions on grammar choice in L2/L3: Past tense transfer in franco-phone and hispanophone learner Italian* studies the importance of different usage frequencies of various forms of past tense marking in first and second language acquisition for the past tense formation in the second language.



Evghenia Goltsev

Evghenia Goltsev (Slavic studies, Prof. Dr. Juliane Besters-Dilger) has been a PhD researcher at the GRK 1624 since October 2012. Her project *Muttersprachliche Beurteilungen unterschiedlicher Frequenzstrukturen der Interlanguage fortgeschrittener Lerner* studies the reaction of German native speakers to the usage frequencies of linguistic structures produced by advanced German language learners (native speakers of Russian) that deviate from the native norm.



Stephanie Stein

Stephanie Stein (English Studies, Prof. Dr. h.c. Christian Mair) has been a PhD researcher at the GRK 1624 since April 2013. Her project *Compounding and conversion in the New Englishes—frequency effects in language contact* investigates the role of analytic and synthetic substrate languages for the frequency of word-formation processes in the New Englishes. The project focuses on conversion, arguing that analytic substrate languages may foster conversion processes in the New Englishes.



Olga Iljina

Olga Iljina (general linguistics, Prof. Dr. Peter Auer) has been a PhD researcher at the GRK 1624 since October 2012. Her neurolinguistic project *Frequency-based prediction of syntax and neural underpinnings of syntactic projection* studies the influence of frequency on the projection and processing speed of syntactic structures with the help of electrocorticographic measurements.



Katja Roller

Katja Roller (Anglistik, Prof. Dr. Bernd Kortmann) has been a PhD researcher at the GRK 1624 since October 2012. Her project *On the relation between frequency and salience in Welsh English Grammar* studies possible causal relationships between the frequency and the salience of dialect features in spoken Welsh English, including focus fronting and *it*-clefts, among others.



Anne Krause

Anne Krause (general linguistics, Prof. Dr. Peter Auer) has been a PhD researcher at the GRK 1624 since October 2012. Her project *Morphological change in German: Formation of imperatives* focuses on the regularisation of imperative formation for strong verbs such as *sterben* (*stirb* vs. *sterb*) or *nehmen* (*nimm* vs. *nehm*). She studies whether the usage frequencies of these verbs have an impact on the loss of the umlaut during imperative formation.



Vanessa Tölke

Vanessa Tölke (Hispanic studies, Prof. Dr. Rolf Kailuweit) has been a PhD researcher at the GRK 1624 since November 2012. Her project *Frequenzeffekte bei der Normierung romanischer Minderheitensprachen – das Beispiel des Valencianischen* studies the role of highly frequent linguistic structures in the standardization process of the minority variety Valencian spoken in Eastern Spain, taking into account its conflicted position between Spanish and Catalan.

Degrees completed at the HPSL I: Postdocs (Habilitation)

PD Dr. Anna Maria de Cseare (Basel, Italian Studies), *L'ordine dei costituenti in italiano contemporaneo e in prospettiva contrastiva con il tedesco. Tra sintassi, pragmatica e tipologia linguistica*.

PD Dr. Lorenz Hofer, *Grundlagen der E-Linguistik: theoretisch-methodologische Untersuchungen*.

PD Dr. Andreas Langlotz (Basel, English Studies), *Creating Social Orientation through Language: A Socio-Cognitive Theory of Situated Social Meaning*.

New professors: HPSL members around the world

Prof. Dr. Aria Adli (Freiburg, Romanistik), now at the *Institut de linguistique et langue française* at the *Université de Strasbourg*.

Prof. Dr. Yvette Bürki (Basel, Iberoromanistik), now assistant professor at the *Instituto de Lengua y Literaturas Hispánicas* at the *University of Bern*.

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Marco García García, (Freiburg, Romanistik), now W1 with W2/tenure track professorship at the *Department of Romance Studies* at the *University of Cologne*.

Prof. Dr. Markus Giger (Basel, Slavistik), now lecturer for Slavic Linguistics at the *Institute of East European Studies* at the *Charles University in Prague*.

The FRIAS junior Fellows Prof. Dr. Martin Hilpert, Prof. Dr. Anja Stukenbrock and PD Dr. Benedikt Szmrecsanyi were a vital part of linguistic life at the HPSL due to their status as PhD supervisors and their involvement in workshops and methodology courses. They now hold positions at the *Université de Neuchâtel* (Martin Hilpert), the *University of Duisburg-Essen* (Anja Stukenbrock), and the *University of Manchester* (Benedikt Szmrecsanyi).

Degrees completed at the HPSL II: PhD theses

A total of 9 PhD candidates have defended their theses in 2012 and 2013. Our warmest congratulations go to all of them!

Katharina Höchle (Basel, French Studies), *Construction discursive de représentations de stages professionnels dans des entreprises de la région du Rhin supérieur* (HPSL).

David Lorenz (Freiburg, English Studies), *Semi-modal Contractions in English: Emancipation through Frequency*, (GRK 1624, Frequency Effects in Language).

Susanne Mocken (Freiburg, Romance Studies), *Der „discours citant“ in der französischen Romanliteratur zwischen 1750 und 1920* (HPSL).

Andrea Moll (Freiburg, English Studies), *Jamaican Creole Goes Web: Sociolinguistic Styling and Authenticity in a Digital Yaad* (HPSL)

Florent Perek (Freiburg, English Studies), *Verbs, Constructions, Alternations: Usage-based perspectives on argument realization* (HPSL).

Péter Rácz (Freiburg, English Studies), *Salience in Sociolinguistics*, (GRK 1624, Frequency Effects in Language).

Friederike Seggewiß (Freiburg, English Studies), *Current changes in the English modals—a corpus-based analysis of present-day spoken English* (HPSL).

Hans-Jörg Weber (Freiburg, Cultural Geography), *Die Paradoxie des Städtetourismus: zwischen Massentourismus und Individualität* (HPSL).

Mirjam Weder (Basel, German Studies), *Orthographische Varianten in der literalen Praxis* (HPSL).

New positions/scholarships: HPSL young academics

Dr. des. Brook Bolander (Basel, English Studies), now research and teaching assistant at the *English Department* of the *University of Zurich*.

Dr. Silke Brandt (Basel, English Studies), now lecturer at the *Department of Linguistics and English* at *Lancaster University*.

Dr. des. Christina Cuonz (Basel, German Studies), now scientific coordinator at the *Graduate School of Humanities and Social Sciences* at the *University of Luzern*.

New positions/scholarships: HPSL young academics (cont.)

Dr. Marcel Dräger (Freiburg, German Studies), now teaching assignment at the *German Department* of the *University of Basel*.

Dr. Susanne Jantos (Freiburg, English Studies), now project leader for intercultural education projects with the *Daetz Foundation Lichtenstein*.

Dr. Letizia Lala (Basel, Italianistik), now researcher within the Swiss National Fond project *La scrittura oggi, tra parlato e lingua mediata dalla rete*.

Dr. Marie Skrovec (Freiburg, Romance Studies), now maître de conférences at the *corpus linguistics lab* of the *CNRS* at the *Université d'Orléans*.

Dr. Rebekka Studler (Basel, German Studies), now *Swiss National Fond Postdoc scholarship* for CUNY und UC Berkeley.

Sinja Ballmer (Basel, German Studies), now research assistant at the *University of Education* in Zug.

Andreas Bürki (Basel, Allgemeine Sprachwissenschaft), now visiting PhD researcher and teaching assignment at the *Humboldt University* in Berlin.

Philipp Dankel (Freiburg, GRK 1624), now course coordinator and coordinator of the HPSL at the *University of Basel*

Catherine Diederich (Basel, English Studies), now *Swiss National Fond PhD completion grant*.

Sandra Hansen (Freiburg, German Studies), now research assistant at the *Institute for the German Language (IDS)* in Mannheim.

Nicole Höhn (Freiburg, English Studies), now research assistant at the *English Department* of the *University of Basel*.

Karin Madlener (Freiburg, GRK 1624), now research assistant at the *German Department* of the *University of Basel*.

Susanne Mocken (Freiburg, Romance Studies), now research assistant for the project *SlavaComp (COMPUter assisted investigation of VARIability in Old Church SLAvonic)* at the *University of Freiburg*.

Péter Rácz (Freiburg, GRK 1624), now post-doc researcher at the *New Zealand Institute of Language, Brain and Behaviour*.

Malte Rosemeyer (Freiburg, GRK 1624), now research assistant at the *Romance Department* of the *University of Freiburg*.

Ulrike Schneider (Freiburg, GRK 1624), now research assistant at the *Department for English and Linguistics* at the *University of Mainz*.

Michael Schäfer (Freiburg, GRK 1624), now coordinator of the *Special Research Training Group GRK 1624* at the *University of Freiburg*.

Christian Schwarz (Freiburg, German Studies), now research assistant at the *Kompetenzzentrum Sprachen* at the *University of Bozen*.

Philipp Stöckle (Freiburg, German Studies), now research assistant within the Swiss National Fond project *Modellierung morpho-syntaktischer Raumbildung im Schweizerdeutschen* at the *University of Zurich*.

HPSL and GRK 1624 fellow: Tom Ruetten in Freiburg

At the end of my research stay at the **Graduiertenkolleg DFG 1624 Frequenzeffekte in der Sprache** from November - December 2011 I would like to thank you for the wonderful two months that I had. My visit in Freiburg was instigated by a joint project with Dr. Szmrecsanyi (FRIAS). Although the project is not yet finished, we committed ourselves to present the results at the ICAME conference in the Summer of 2012. After the conference, our work will be written down and submitted for publication in an international journal¹. During my stay, I found the atmosphere in the GRK highly stimulating. The central position of the GRK, at the crossroads of the most important linguistic branches, provided me with rich possibilities to interact with the experts of my field.

Above all, I valued the open and dynamic atmosphere of the GRK. Without suffocating or endless bureaucratic paperwork, there was a desk and high-quality infrastructure waiting for me upon arrival. The feeling of "it just works" stimulated me to call together an internationally visited **workshop on methods in geolinguistics with Sandra Hansen (Germanistik) and Christoph Wolk (FRIAS)**. The necessary administrative and logistic back-up for this undertaking was provided smoothly, making it a real pleasure to organize events at the GRK. Finally, I would like to thank everybody that I had coffee with for the long discussions, stimulating sit-togethers and data-crunching sessions. It has been a real pleasure.

Kind regards, Tom

¹ Tom Ruetten (University of Leuven), Katharina Ehret (University of Freiburg), Benedikt Szmrecsanyi (University of Manchester, FRIAS junior fellow until 2012), submitted. *Frequency effects in lexical sociolectometry are insubstantial*. In: Heike Behrens and Stefan Pfänder (eds), *Frequenze Effects*. Berlin: De Gruyter.

HPSL travel journal: Stefanie Meier on the Philippines

As one of the newest members of the HPSL, I am very happy to report on one of my most exciting experiences as a researcher – a research trip to Mindanao, Philippines. I am writing my PhD project *Emancipation or dependency? Bilingual language policy in multilingual Philippines* (working title) at the University of Basel under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Miriam Locher and Prof. Dr. Annelies Häcki Buhofer. My project tries to uncover the role a national or international lingua franca plays as an advocate or a mirror of emancipation or dependency in a formerly colonized country. I am looking at the economic and cultural consequences the bilingual lan-

guage policy has on the Bisaya speaking regions of the Philippines. With my thesis I would like to further develop the theory of a sociolinguistics of globalisation. Globalisation in this context should not be understood as an idealistic international and intercultural network building but as a historical consequence of the capitalist endeavours of colonialism and imperialism. It affects power relations, fosters dependencies and touches different aspects of human life from economy over politics to culture. The linguistic landscape of the Philippines, shaped by colonisation, imperialism and globalisation, serves as the location of my research.



Tagalog and Bisaya are the most widely spread languages with over 20 million native speakers each. Tagalog is mostly spoken in Luzon, the Northern part of the Philippines, including the capital Manila, and serves as the basis of Filipino – the country's national language. Bisaya is the language spoken in central and Southern Philippines (parts of Visayas and Mindanao). Throughout its colonial history the country found to its current language policy of promoting a national lingua franca – Tagalog/Filipino – and an international lingua franca – English – as the languages of education, institution, university as well as public life. Other languages – even regional lingua francas such as Bisaya or Ilocano – are not taught at school (since 2010 it is allowed to use the mother tongue for instruction during the first school years).

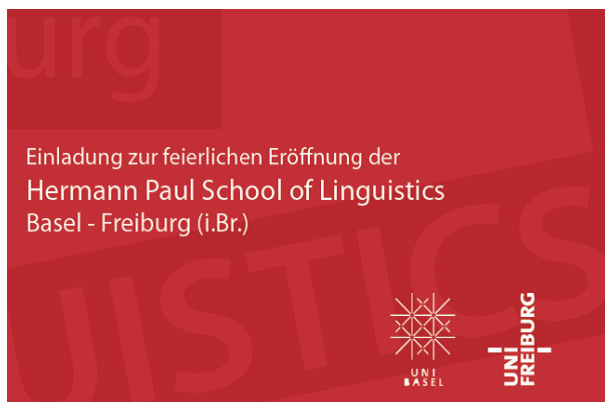
The research project examines in how far the bilingual language policy has effects on dependency (or emancipation) in the cultural and economic sphere for the language community of one of these regional linguae francae – Bisaya. At the very beginning of my PhD project stood a two months journey to Mindanao and the Visayas – from end of December 2012 to end of February 2013. After a long period of reading theoretical texts, being immersed in Philippine literature and learning Bisaya, I was finally to be there. My main objectives were having a real life look at the linguistic landscape, establishing contact with people, who are central to my research and learn the language.

I was also looking forward to finally read through the latest publications in the field. As is reality for many PhD students, writing the thesis takes up only one part of one's attention. Next to my thesis, I work as an assistant to Prof. Dr. Annelies Häcki Buhofer, which involves teaching proseminars and as a researcher for and coordinator of the SwissNationalFund project for a collocation's dictionary in German. Because of the great support of my supervisors it was possible for me to take leave of these engagements for two months. All the more excited I was to be able to fully concentrate on my project for such a long time – I imagined it as pure heaven.

Never having travelled that far and experienced a culture so different, of course my expectations were to be thoroughly revised. Most importantly however, my two months stay reassured me in how much Mindanao is worth exploring linguistically. Coming from a more humanist tradition, it surprised me how much learning the English language and the whole school curriculum as such are bluntly motivated by economy.

My research trip helped me establish a basis on which I can continue with my research – read theoretical texts in a different light, choose a research methodology and prepare data collection (also with the help of my new contacts). I am looking forward to a period of extensive research and will be happy to organize a next, more extensive field trip in the future.

October 2012: Opening ceremony for the HPSL Basel-Freiburg



The opening ceremony for the joint graduate school in linguistic of the Universities of Freiburg and Basel took place in Basel on October 29th, 2012 and was attended by over 100 HPSL members.

The program included contributions from the presidents of both universities, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Hans-Jochen Schiewer (Freiburg), Prof. Dr. Antonio Loprieno (Basel), the two spokespeople of the HPSL, Prof. Dr. Stefan Pfänder (Freiburg) and Prof. Dr. Heike Behrens (Basel), and a guest lecture by Prof. Dr. Nick Enfield (MPI for Psycholinguistics & Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen).

“In Basel ist die Hermann Paul School of Linguistics (HPSL) eröffnet worden, ein Programm für eine gemeinsame Doktorandenausbildung der beiden Unis Basel und Freiburg. Sie verstärken damit ihre langjährige Kooperation in Sprachwissenschaften, Kognitionswissenschaft und weiteren Disziplinen rund um Sprache und Kommunikation. Mit der HPSL erhalten über 100 junge Wissenschaftler eine Plattform für die Durchführung ihrer Projekte, aber auch eine vertiefte Methodenausbildung“ (*Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, 29.10.2012, *Köpfe und Fakten*).



HPSL members during the HPSL opening ceremony on October 29th



Prof. Dr. Hans-Jochen Schiewer (President, Freiburg University)



Prof. Dr. Antonio Loprieno (President, University of Basel)

Imprint



Prof. Dr. Heike Behrens
University of Basel
Spokesperson



Prof. Dr. Stefan Pfänder
University of Freiburg
Spokesperson



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