

DC8 Ilaria PARISI

Title of IRP8: *Promoting culture and identity-building in digital contexts: Focus on indigenous regional and minority languages*

Research fields: Applied Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Dialectology

Co-supervisors of IRP8:

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This PhD position is part of a double-degree programme. Upon completion, candidates will be awarded **one joint doctoral degree**, on two PhD diplomas, following research stays at both institutions: **University of Warsaw** (diploma conferred by the **University of Warsaw**) and **Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg** (diploma conferred by the **Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg**).

Scientific context of the Individual Research Project IRP8:

IRP8 is embedded into **Work Package 2 (WP2)** ‘Multilingual communication and resources in the Digital Age: discourses, practices, stereotypes’. WP2 conducts cross-cultural analyses of language management strategies and regulation in language policy regarding the promotion of the individuals’ plurilingual repertoire and the implementation of assumed pluri-/multilingual goals in digital resources and tools as well as AI technologies at the European, national and regional levels with an openness to the (endangered) indigenous regional and minority languages. By using a discourse analytical approach combined with corpus linguistics methods on the collected data, WP2 will model the diversity of the actors, positions and goals in language policy on the three target levels in the language policy framework of the Language Management Theory. The aim is to establish the theoretical and empirical basis for making research-based recommendations for a multilingual concept of Language Awareness that considers the different dynamics of each level.

In this context, IRP8 investigates culture and identity-building in digital contexts with focus on indigenous regional and minority languages.

Recruiting University: University of Warsaw (UW), Poland

Partner University for the Joint Doctorate: Friedrich-Alexander Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg, FAU, Germany

Objectives:

IRP 8 aims an in-depth analysis of how the technological innovations used therein contribute to the preservation, revitalisation & promotion of the indigenous regional and minority languages (see the Molac Law 2021 for regional languages in France and the “International Decade of Indigenous Languages (2022-2032)”, **UNESCO**). IRP 8 focuses both on the impact of bottom-up initiatives and the implementation of current legal frameworks, assessing their effectiveness in fostering public awareness and engagement concerning the use of indigenous regional and minority languages. DC8 will investigate the interface between Practical Language Awareness (PLA) and Metalinguistic Awareness (MLA) by:

- 1) identifying recent trends in the implementation of these languages in AI-based applications (language-learning apps, digital translation tools) ;
- 2) comparing the findings with the outcomes expected by the key stakeholders;
- 3) assessing how AI technologies & digital engagement strategies can contribute to raise PLA & MIA and support the use of indigenous regional and minority languages as “endangered languages” (e.g., Kashubian in Poland, Breton/Occitan/Alsatian in France).

Expected Results:

- 1) An empirically based assessment of how effectively top-down policies and bottom-up initiatives have achieved their objectives in fostering PLA and MIA;
- 2) Recommendations for
 - a) enhancing existing initiatives regarding the culture-promoting & identity-building functions of indigenous regional & minority languages;
 - b) developing research-based initiatives that address hitherto unmet needs of plurilingual individuals, particularly in navigating the relationship between the indigenous regional & minority languages and the national language(s).

Secondments:

- French Ministry of Culture (MC), 3 months
- UNESCO, 4 months

Languages: English, German, Italian, Spanish