

Language and Space Labs

People, Services, Research and Future Perspectives

Overarching Goal

Exploring and introducing innovative approaches to language and space research

People

We are three labs, each lead by a post-doctoral research fellow and each associated with a PhD student and student assistants.



Services

Support

- Service support: e.g. giving advice on available data, methods and tools
- Research support: Conducting analyses, implementing tools
- Contributing to interdisciplinary grant applications

Workshops

We initiated a workshop series on fostering spatial linguistic research through efficient data management and use.

- 1st workshop: "Visualizing Linguistic Data" on Nov. 1st 2014
- 2nd workshop: "How to make data reusable?" on May 29th, 2015
- 3rd to nth workshop: Data Analysis, such as analysing multi-media data, natural language processing or spatial analysis and spatial statistics

Teaching & Outreach Activities

- Teaching of courses on Bachelor and Master level
- Supervision of Bachelor, Master and PhD students
- Science and Society Activities, such as Deutsch
 3.0 (organized by the Goethe Institut), Scientifica
 (UZH and ETHZ), Ringvorlesung (UZH).
- Training of young researchers in internships

Research



GISLab

The GISLab focuses on two broad research questions:

- How can the distribution and evolution of language over space and time be analysed and modelled?
- How can language be used as a source of geographic information?

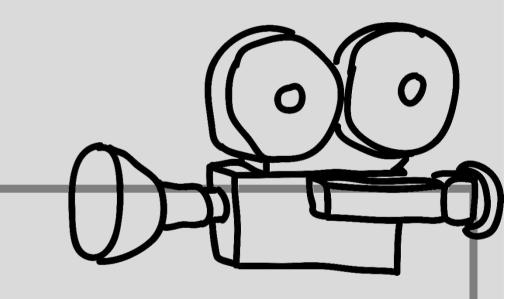
Methodologies: The GISLab applies spatial (statistical) analysis and models, as well as approaches of information extraction and data mining.

CorpusLab

Natural language processing for linguistic research: corpora of non-standard, regional language varieties (Swiss German, variants of former Serbo-Croatian); tools (normalisation, lemmatisation, glossing, PoS tagging, pattern extraction); evaluation frameworks (verb aspect extraction)

Corpus-based study of language and space: corpusbased measures of linguistic distance, spatial origins of linguistic distributions in corpora.

VideoLab



The VideoLab studies the interplay between interaction and space using different kinds of video data.

It explores innovative techniques for video-analytic research on space (e.g. using mobile eye-tracking in authentic interactions) and contributes to the advancement of a theory of space-in-interaction.

Its research is informed by approaches such as Conversation Analysis, studies on embodiment, Workplace Studies, etc.

