

# 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

#### 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

#### Workshops

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

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

### 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: corpus-based 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.

### Future Perspectives

Timeline:

- now** (2016): 1 individual research labs with independent research agendas
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Funding Period** (2020): 2 combining all services in one Language & Space Service Centre, while maintaining individual research agendas
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Funding Period** (2020): 3 broadening the research focus to connect with other disciplines in the humanities - fostering collaborations with the private and public sector
- 4** installing one Language and Space Research Lab with a shared research profile, focusing on a broad selection of topics in the humanities
- 5** reaching partial financial independence through collaborations with the private sector and an own CAS/MAS program