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The editors

If one searches for The Mouth as an online journal, the result may easily be a link to a journal on dentistry. The mouth indeed can be filled with germs and bacteria and rotten teeth, and then it is in need of medical care. Sometimes, teeth can be damaged beyond repair and need to be removed, or fall off. In this case, a set of dentures serves to hide the apparent lack of oral completeness. It might look better than the original teeth ever would have, and opens up opportunities for its owner: a Hollywood career, perhaps.

The Mouth, however, is not about rotten teeth and dentures, and linguists only rarely become film stars, and probably do not figure prominently as dentists either. Yet, teeth are

important in linguistics, cultural and social studies, and elsewhere. They are needed in order to produce interdental fricatives, and winning smiles while presenting an academic talk on the former. They can be mutilated and extracted, painted (black), whitened and neglected – all part of social performances of class and practices of indicating group membership. The gold that is sometimes used to fill decaying molars is something people tend to keep after the molar itself got lost, while gold covers on the front teeth tend to signify wealth.

Teeth are shown to enemies in different ways than to friends when we smile. They can pain tremendously, but interestingly do not feel like anything at all when they are well. They

can be important in forensics when everything else that once was part of a person or body is already gone. In the form of dentures, they can be embarrassing when not in the mouth while we are still alive. Later, all this doesn't seem to matter.

Teeth, a lack of teeth or certain irregular shapes of teeth (crooked teeth, protruding teeth) are often relevant for sociolinguistics: they may impact the way somebody speaks, mark specific personal speech styles or simply generate (linguistic) ideologies and attitudes within a community.

The cover theme of this issue of *The Mouth* is therefore used and to be understood in all of these manifold ways: teeth are a metaphor of speaking, of seeing oneself and being seen, and of society at large.

Thus, this issue of *The Mouth* does not contain any contribution to the field of dentistry, forensics or phonetics. Instead, it offers a selection of sociolinguistic contributions which look critically at multilingualism, mobility, capitalism and academia.

William Kelleher's bilingual contribution offers an innovative and new approach to ecological issues and climate change through a sociolinguistic perspective. The author reflects on possibilities of considering ecology and environmental aspects through multidimensional reflections by discussing a case study from South Africa: The relocation of the Johannesburg Stock Exchange, and a personal narrative thereof, touches upon various relevant ecological matters and considerations which are used to call for an ecological critical approach in sociolinguistics.

The *Triologue* by Anne Storch, Nick Shepherd and Ana Deumert is an experimental and deep piece of discussion of academic

practices and paradigms. Like a journey, the authors reflect on various themes connected to academia as they affect and shape, and are affected and shaped by, their personal lives and biographical experiences. A central matter of the three authors is undisciplinarity, a notion which tries to grasp the tasks of the engaged scholars, of critically dismantling the established and often unquestioned roots of the disciplines and of finding new routes that lead to new ways of being and seeing yourself in academia.

Judith Mgbemena writes about linguistic diversity and multilingualism in northeastern Nigeria. She looks into the conflicts that go along with diversity, which often not only offers opportunities as a part of living and healing relationships between people, but also is at the base of inequality. The terminologies, ideological dynamics and political economies surrounding the language practices described and analyzed by Judith Mgbemena speak their own language.

Susanne Mohr's article on the awareness of a researcher's subjectivity in sociolinguistic research concentrates on the linguistics of tourism. Focusing on language and linguistics with regards to Zanzibar, this text offers insights into methodological as well as personal questions and answers. Mohr concludes her paper with a plea for reflexivity on the side of the researcher, who should take into account the Gestalt of the discipline and the environments in which encounters and work take place.