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About the Authors

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**Katharina Brizić** is a sociolinguist and professor of multilingualism studies at the University of Freiburg, Germany. She collaborates with researchers in Germany, Austria, France, Israel, Turkey, the United States, and beyond, with a specific focus on multilingualism, academic success, and social inequality. Her most recent research includes a “Viennese Home Language Survey” and a study of biographies from the multilingual areas of the Middle East and the Balkans. Brizić’s work contributes to a deeper understanding of language, migration, inequality, and social cohesion in postmodern societies.

**Necle Bulut** is a researcher and scientific staff member at the Institute of German Studies, University of Münster, and a secondary school teacher. Her research and teaching revolve around illiteracy and literacy, written-language acquisition, reading and writing fluency in first and second languages, international student assessments, and multilingualism, with a particular focus on Kurdish languages in the Middle East and Germany.

**Abdourahmane Diallo** is an adjunct professor of African linguistics and lecturer of Fula at the University of Frankfurt am Main.

His interests span language description, dialectology, language teaching, and sociolinguistics, in particular urban multilingualism and African diaspora languages. Contact between Mande and Atlantic languages and the use of French in postcolonial Guinea are just two of the many research projects in which Diallo has participated. His own research focuses on language contact, language conflict, language policy in West Africa, and language loyalty in migration contexts.

**Klaudia Dombrowsky-Hahn** is a linguist working on African languages spoken in Africa and in Europe. She has published extensively on language contact between the Mande and Senufo languages spoken in Mali and Burkina Faso and has undertaken field research on urban languages and multilingualism in the town of Banfora (Burkina Faso). Together with Sabine Littig, Dombrowsky-Hahn is engaged in an African linguistic research project run at the Goethe University in Frankfurt am Main and the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz about the linguistic integration of Africans in the Rhine-Main region. She is also interested in language acquisition, language ideologies, and how languages contribute to the emergence of speakers' identities.

**Axel Fanego Palat** joined the Goethe University in Frankfurt, Germany, in 2018 as a professor of African studies after more than ten years in a similar position at the University of Helsinki, Finland. He has conducted language-related research mainly in southern Africa. Language is central to our sense of self. How language ideologies, linguistic features and legacies affect one's identity is the

question that drives his academic pursuits. He is currently involved in a research project on the linguistic integration of Africans in the Rhine-Main region, and in a LOEWE research cluster on minority studies.

**Silke Jansen** is a linguist for romance languages at the Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg. She specializes in sociolinguistics, language contact, and linguistic ideologies, with a focus on Latin America and the Caribbean. Her research interests include the role of language variation and linguistic difference in processes of identity construction, social differentiation, and "othering". Especially keen on developing interdisciplinary projects, she currently leads the VIOLIN project ("Verbal violence against migrants in institutions"), which brings together researchers from linguistics, political science, psychology, and psychosomatic medicine.

**Annalena Kolloch** is a social anthropologist affiliated to the Department of Anthropology and African Studies in Mainz. In her doctoral thesis, she wrote about Beninese magistrates who in recent times have become an increasingly mobilized political protest movement in the struggle for judicial independence. Her thesis traces the history of the judicial profession, their discourses, and practices since 1894 until today. Kolloch is currently a post-doctoral researcher in the project "Police translations: multilingualism and the construction of cultural differences in everyday police work" funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG). Her research focuses specifically on language and the experiences of cultural mediators and migrants in interactions with German police agents.

**Maarten Kossmann** (PhD 1994) is a professor of Berber studies at the Leiden University Centre of Linguistics. He has published extensively on different aspects of Berber languages, language contact, multilingualism, and oral literatures. In the framework of the EU-funded program “Advancing the European Multilingual Experience”, he has conducted research on language usage among young Dutch people with a Moroccan background.

**Sabine Littig** is a linguist who specializes in the languages of Central and West Africa. She currently works as a researcher in the project “Afrikaner\*innen im Rhein-Main-Gebiet: Ein afrikalinguistisches Forschungsprojekt zu sprachlicher Integration”, based at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz and the Goethe University Frankfurt am Main. The project focuses on aspects of linguistic integration and studies how immigrants from Africa, or descendants of parents and grandparents who came from Africa, learn the German language. The project aims to understand linguistic practices and language use in terms of the speakers’ heritage languages and African languages of wider communication as well as German.

**Nico Nassenstein** is junior professor for African Languages and Linguistics at Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz at the Department of Anthropology and African Studies. He holds a PhD from the University of Cologne and works mainly in the fields of Linguistic Anthropology/ Anthropological Linguistics, Sociolinguistics and Pragmatics with a regional focus on Central and East Africa. His research interests include verbal taboo, politeness, the language of violent conflict, swearing and cursing

practices, linguistic ethnography, emerging language practices in Africa and metalanguage around sexuality and body parts. Two of his recent books include “Swearing and Cursing: Contexts and Practices in a Critical Linguistic Perspective” (co-ed. with Anne Storch, Mouton de Gruyter, 2020) and “Metasex: The Discourse of Intimacy and Transgression” (co-authored with Anne Storch, John Benjamins, Culture and Language Use 22, 2020).

**Lucía Romero Gibu** (M.A.) is a graduate of the Cultural and Cognitive Linguistics (CCL) master’s program at Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich. She works as a research assistant in the project “Verbal violence against migrants in institutions (VIOLIN): an integrative access to experiences and mental health of refugees and migrants” at Friedrich Alexander University Erlangen-Nürnberg, led by Silke Jansen. The project aims to raise the visibility of this form of violence and to develop a model for the integration of migrants in new sociocultural environments based on reports of the experiences of Spanish-speaking migrants.

**Yazgül Şimşek** is a linguist interested in bilingual and multilingual language and literacy acquisition, as well as in language contact phenomena between German and other languages. She has taken part in several international research projects, including on the use of German by Turkish-German adolescents (project “Türkendeutsch”) and on literacy acquisition in multilingual German-Turkish-Kurdish contexts (project “Literacy acquisition in schools in the context of migration and multilingualism”). Since 2014, she has been a senior lecturer at the Centre for Multilingualism

and Language Acquisition (CEMES), University of Münster. Her recent work includes research on the schooling and academic success of multilingual children in Germany, with a focus on literacy acquisition by children with Kurdish as a first language.

**Raymond Siebetchu** holds a research and lecturer position at the University for Foreigners of Siena (Italy), where he obtained his doctorate in 2010 in linguistics and the teaching of Italian as a foreign language. Since 2011 he has been a visiting professor at the Italian Unit of the University of Dschang (Cameroon). Siebetchu has been involved in the working groups of several research projects focusing on the Italian language abroad and immigrant languages in Italy. He has published extensively on language and migration, language and integration at school, language and colonialism, Italian in Africa, multilingualism in sport, and on linguistic landscapes.