

Pluricentric languages, multilingualism and linguistic dehegemonisation in Africa

10th International Conference on Pluricentric Languages and their Non-Dominant Varieties

Online-conference
hosted by the University of Leipzig

August 23-25, 2023

The *International Working Group on Non-Dominant Varieties of Pluricentric Languages* (WGNDV) is pleased to announce its 10th conference on Pluricentric Languages and their Non-Dominant Varieties with a special focus on Africa. The conference will be hosted by the University of Leipzig and will be held online.

1. GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF THE CONFERENCE

The main objective of the 10th WGNDV conference is to extend our knowledge on pluricentric languages further. To that end, we particularly welcome scholars from Africa and the rest of the world to provide their insights into the linguistic situation and the specific characteristics of pluricentric languages and their varieties in Africa and beyond.

This international conference builds on the previous nine conferences and workshops held in Graz (2011), Salamanca (2012), Guildford (2014), Graz (2015), Mainz (2017), Nitra (2018), Graz (2019), Stockholm (2019) and Graz (online 2021), all of which resulted in [published volumes](#). Our conferences and workshops explore the field, define terminology and concepts associated with the descriptions of pluricentricity, describe the current situation of non-dominant standards as comprehensively as possible and discuss sociological, educational and cultural implications of managing language standard systems.

2. IMPORTANT DATES

Submission deadline for the abstracts	April 15, 2023
Notification of acceptance after reviewing the abstracts	May 10, 2023
Submission deadline for the recorded presentations	August 10, 2023
Registration deadline	August 10, 2023
Dates of the conference	August 23-25, 2023

3. SESSIONS OF THE CONFERENCE

Session (1): Pluricentric languages, multilingualism, and linguistic dehegemonisation in Africa

1. This session focuses on **pluricentric languages in Africa** including, but not limited to **Afrikaans, Arabic, Berber/Tamazight, Hausa, Kiswahili/Swahili, Somali, and English, French, German, Portuguese, Spanish**.

There are a considerable number of native African languages that have not yet been studied with respect to the concept of pluricentricity. Several languages might be pluricentric due to geographical and linguistic circumstances, e.g.: **Bambara** (Burkina Faso, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guinea, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal); **Chewa/Nyanja** (Malawi, Mozambique, Zambia, Zimbabwe); **Fula/Fulfulde** (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal); **Guinean Portuguese/Português Guineense** (Guinea-Bissau); **Kabuverdianu** (Cape Verde, São Tomé & Príncipe, Guinea-Bissau); **Kikongo** (Angola, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon); **Kiswahili/Swahili** (Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda), **Lingala** (Democratic Republic of Congo, Republic of Congo); **Shangane** (South Africa, Mozambique, Zimbabwe); **Soninke** (Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Mauritania, Senegal); **Sotho** (Lesotho, South Africa, Zimbabwe); **Swazi/Swati** (Eswatini, Mozambique, South Africa, Swaziland); **Tuareg** (Mali, Niger); **Setswana/Tswana** (Botswana, South Africa, Zimbabwe); **Tigrinya** (Eritrea, Ethiopia); **Venda/Tshivenda/Luvenda** (South Africa, Zimbabwe); **Xhosa** (South Africa, Zimbabwe) etc.

2. Apart from these, there will probably be **many other African languages** that possibly are pluricentric, but have not been researched yet.

We would like to welcome scholars working on **languages of African origin** specifically to check their status as a pluricentric language and present their results at the conference.

Session (2): General session – Pluricentric languages worldwide

1. In this general session, we are looking forward to papers on pluricentric languages in the rest of the world.
2. Additional subsessions and panel proposals can be included as well.

4. TOPICS OF THE CONFERENCE

The conference's topics include, but are not limited to:

- Pluricentric languages and linguistic dehegemonisation in Africa
- Multilingualism in Africa
- Non-dominant varieties of pluricentric languages – perspectives and views
- Decolonial approach to language diversity
- Linguistics and hegemonic discourse (e.g. European linguistics as a tool for power management)

- Pluricentric languages: concept, characteristics, description
- Official status of national varieties and language policies
- African national varieties used outside of Africa
- Corpus construction for pluricentric languages
- Language making and language (re)naming
- Pluricentricity and nationalism
- Pluricentric languages and language education
- History of pluricentric languages

5. CONFERENCE LANGUAGES

- The conference languages will be **Arabic, English, French, Hausa, Portuguese, and Swahili**
- Additionally, the languages of special sessions relating to specific languages could also be used, if there are enough presentations for such sessions
- However, to facilitate smooth transfer of knowledge **all written material (slides, handouts)** must be provided in **English**

6. SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS

- Please use the submission form you can [download from our website](#).
- The abstracts for both individual papers and panels should be **1-2 pages (A4)**, as they are expected to outline the content of the presentation in greater detail. Please make sure to include the conference topic it relates to, your research objectives, methodology and main findings.
- **All abstracts** must be written in **English**. Please include the language you prefer to use in your presentation: *Arabic, English, French, Hausa, Portuguese, or Swahili*.
- Include your **affiliation** and **position** as well.
- Please send your abstract as an attachment to reglindis.deridder@nederlandska.su.se and write “**Abstract 10th International WGNDV Conference**” in the subject line.
- The **deadline** for submitting the abstracts is **April 15, 2023**.
- All submissions will be **peer-reviewed** by May 10, 2023.

7. MODE OF PARTICIPATION

- We welcome **individual papers** of one or more authors, but also panel proposals. The presentation time of individual papers is **limited to 15 minutes** to make sure

there is enough time for discussion and to enable enough participants to present their paper at the conference.

- The **oral presentation** can be held in **Arabic, English, French, Hausa, Portuguese, or Swahili**, but **all written material (slides, handouts)** must be in **English**.
- In order to avoid delays caused by technical issues with microphones, cameras, internet connections, etc.), we would like all presentations **to be recorded beforehand**, but they will **be streamed in the presence of the presenter**. Presentations therefore will **not be held live**. After streaming the presentations in each session, a general **live discussion of all papers** will be held in which the authors answer the questions live.
- We ask all presenters **to record their presentation**, for example via:
 - the **functionality in PowerPoint** see [Record a presentation in PowerPoint](#)
 - the **recording feature in Teams** see [Record a meeting in Teams](#)
 - the **recording feature in Zoom** see [Recording a Zoom Meeting](#) (YouTube tutorial)
- **Deadline** for submitting the **recorded presentations: August 10, 2023**.
- Please e-mail your video file to 10wgndv-conf2023@oedeutsch.at, should the file be too large (more than 6 MB) you could for instance use the free file transfer service offered by [WeTransfer](#).

8. REGISTRATION AND FEES

All participants have to register to attend the conference, as only registered participants will be allowed online access. Please fill out the **registration form** [on the conference website](#) and we will confirm your registration as soon as we have received the payment of the registration fee. The registration deadline is **August 10, 2023**.

Registration fees	
Students studying at higher-education institutions in Africa	no fee
Participants affiliated to higher-education institutions in Africa	€ 20
Students from other countries	€ 25
Non-presenting participants from other countries	€ 30
Presenting participants from other countries	€ 45

9. PUBLICATION OF PAPERS

We are planning to publish a selected number of papers in one or two peer-reviewed open access volume(s) thematically aligned with the topics of the conference at [PCL-Press](#). This will be discussed on the final day of the conference during the closing session.

10. CONTACT

E-mail: 10wgndv-conf2023@oedeutsch.at

Homepage: <https://pluricentriclanguages.org/conferences/ndvconf-online-2023>

11. ORGANISING COMMITTEE

General organisers of the conference:

- [Reglindis De Ridder](#) (University of Stockholm, Sweden)
- Kelen Ernesta Fonyuy (University of Bamenda, Cameroon)
- Sebastian Greußlich (University of Bonn, Germany)
- Máté Huber (University of Szeged, Hungary)
- Benjamin Meisnitzer (University of Leipzig, Germany)

Organising committee:

- Reglindis De Ridder (Stockholm, Sweden)
- Stefan Dollinger (Vancouver, Canada)
- Maria Eugenia L. Duarte (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil)
- Gerhard Edelmann (Vienna, Austria)
- Paulo Feytor Pinto (Coimbra, Portugal)
- Kelen Ernesta Fonyuy (Bamenda, Cameroon)
- David Paul Gerards (Mainz, Germany)
- Sebastian Greußlich (Bonn, Germany)
- Máté Huber (Szeged, Hungary)
- Ana Raquel Matias (Lisbon, Portugal)
- Benjamin Meisnitzer (Leipzig, Germany)
- Albana Muco (Milano, Italy)
- Rudolf Muhr (Graz, Austria)
- Morgan Nilsson (Gothenburg, Sweden)
- Augusto Soares da Silva (Braga, Portugal)
- Juan Antonio Thomas (New York, USA)
- Ildiko Vanco (Nitra, Slovakia)