

Dear colleagues,

we would like to invite you to a talk by

**Cristina M. M. Flores**  
(Universidade do Minho, Braga)

on

## **Attrition and reactivation in childhood**

When: Tuesday, 18.7., 14.15-15.45

Where: Room IG 0.251

### **Abstract:**

This talk reports the data of a longitudinal study of language attrition and reactivation in a bilingual girl who grew up in (Germany with German as dominant L2 and Portuguese as heritage language). At age 9 the girl moved to Portugal, experiencing a dominance shift from German to Portuguese. At age 13, after three years of complete lack of contact with German, the child moves back to Germany. Data reveal that i) lack of input in childhood may affect several linguistic properties, even those that are acquired at early stages of development (e.g. verb placement in German); ii) some properties are more vulnerable, being affected earlier than others (pronominal subjects). Data collected after re-immersion in the German environment (11 month after return to Germany at age 13) show that also reactivation of the attrited language follows a differential path. The girl does no longer show vulnerabilities in the domains of verb placement and verbal morphology; however, subject expression and case morphology still show attrition effects. These observations indicate that the domains that are first affected by language attrition may be the most difficult to reactivate. The findings emphasize the dynamic nature of childhood bilingualism. They show i) strong effects of attrition when input reduction occurs in childhood (Kaufman & Aronoff, 1991); ii) that attrition effects may be the consequence of access problems and increased susceptibility to crosslinguistic influence; iii) these effects are mostly overcome if input is regained (Ecke, 2004), depending on the age of loss.

We are looking forward to seeing you.

Best,

Manfred and Petra.

PS: An up-to-date program of the colloquium can be found at:

<https://www.english-linguistics.de/colloquium-recent-trends-in-linguistic-research/>