



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH

Linguistisches Kolloquium

Jun.-Prof. Dr. Valentina Serreli

(Universität Bayreuth, Arabistik)

18. Juni 2019

Raum: GWI/S 120, Zeit: 16 Uhr (c.t.)

Arabic L2 in Siwa Oasis, a Berber-speaking enclave of Egypt

Mostly known as the only Berber enclave in Egypt, the Siwa Oasis witnessed indeed a massive Arabicization in the last decades, which resulted in the use of Arabic as a vehicular language, besides the maintenance of the native Siwi Berber as unmarked in-group code (Serreli 2016). During the last century, Siwi speakers have been in contact with mainly two Arabic dialects, which display considerably different features at all levels: Bedouin Arabic, spoken by the Shahibat tribe in the oasis and by the Awlad Ali tribe elsewhere in the Matrouh governorate, and Egyptian Arabic, spoken by some Arabic-speaking residents and dominant in TV-broadcasts, besides being the most prestigious and widespread variety in the country.

The talk proposes some notes on the Arabic spoken as second language in Siwa Oasis, focusing on selected phonological and morphological features. In line with other studies of Arabic as a vehicular language (Siméone-Senelle 2000, 2002; Manfredi 2013), the data displays both inter- and intraspeaker variation. A preliminary analysis points to the predominance of the Egyptian Arabic type in general terms, but it also allows to hypothesize that this is a new trend, led by educated youth and young girls.