



UNIL | Université de Lausanne
Section d'anglais

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

Staff News

From 8 October to 8 December, **Professor Nicholas Welch** is visiting from Memorial University of Newfoundland where he holds the Canada Research Chair in Change, Adaptation and Revitalization of Indigenous Languages. Together with Jennifer Thorburn, they are working on a language attrition project which focuses on intergenerational transmission of Innu-aimun, an indigenous language in eastern Canada.

Esther de Leeuw and **Scott Lewis** are happy to share that after six long months, the Mother Tongues project, was finally granted ethical approval. Participants are now being recruited and data collection is set to begin very soon.

Research and Publications

Rajamathangi Shanmugasundaram attended the conference *Tense, Aspect and Modality in South Asian Languages* at INALCO, Paris, from 29 to 31 October where she presented a paper entitled “Verb Raising in Tamil: The Argument from Complex Predicates in VP Ellipsis Constructions”.

Routledge has accepted the collection, *Urban Undergrounds: Contemporary Literary and Cultural Perspectives*, edited by Patricia García and David Pike, for publication in 2025, including **Rachel Falconer**'s chapter, “Katabasis and Climate Change”.

The Routledge Companion to Seamus Heaney, collecting around 40 contemporary poetry specialists, will also include a chapter by **Rachel Falconer** (publication in 2026).

On 9 October **Rory Critten** lead a CUSO workshop in Geneva entitled “Recovering Novelty in Early English Style”.

A member of the scientific committee of *The Journal of the Short Story in English*, **Martine Hennard Dutheil** was commissioned to contribute to the fortieth anniversary issue of the journal (Spring-Autumn 2023), which is now accessible online: “[Hatched Out of Fitcher’s Bird’s Bloody Egg: Angela Carter and Grimm’s Tales](#)”. The article shows how Carter found inspiration in her childhood copy of *Grimms’ Goblins*, especially “Fitcher’s Bird”, a tale which sparked her creativity and to which she returned time and again.

On 24 October, **Olena Danylovyh** and **Viktoriia Skriabina** participated in a conference entitled “‘What’s in a Name?’ Appropriation of Ukrainian Linguistic and Cultural Signifiers” which took place at UNIL. **Olena** presented on “Using and Misusing the Rus in Medieval Scholarship: Observations from the Field” and **Viktoriia** on “The Power of Naming: From Borscht to Malevych”.

Jennifer Thorburn presented her research at the CLARIN-CH day at the University of Neuchâtel on 9 September. Her paper was entitled “Ethical Sharing of Legacy Data”.

Jennifer also gave a presentation entitled “Exploring Attitudes in French-Speaking Switzerland using Student-Collected Data” at the International Symposium on Language Ideologies and Attitudes in Palma, 17-19 October.

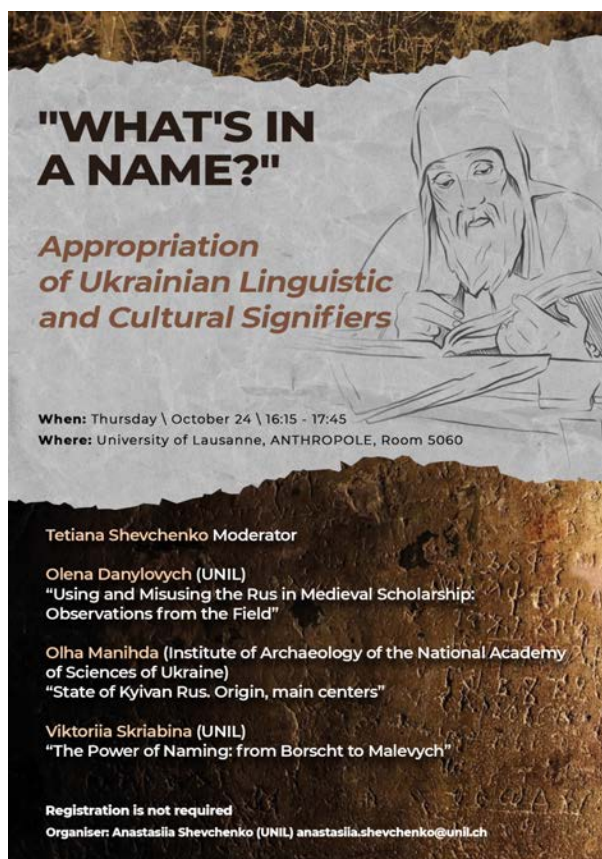
Jennifer gave a talk on “The Household as a Locus of Family Language Policy: A Longitudinal Investigation of Attitudes towards Innu-aimun in Labrador, Canada”, co-authored with **Nicholas Welch**, at the Family Language Policy Conference: Reimagining the Field in Galway, 22-23 October.

Anita Auer gave a plenary talk at the [8th International Conference on Late Modern English \(LModE-8\)](#) that took place at the [University of Salamanca](#) (Spain) on 2-4 October 2024. The topic of her talk was “Voices from the Lower Social Spectrum: The Language of the Labouring Poor in Late Modern England”.

Anita’s chapter “The History of English” in **Sue Fox’s** edited volume *Language in Britain and Ireland* has recently been published (Cambridge University Press).

Anita also edited, in collaboration with **Joshua Brown** (The University of Western Australia), a special issue of the *Journal of Historical Sociolinguistics* (Mouton de Gruyter) on the topic of [“The Role of Merchants in Language Standardisation”](#). **Anita** and **Josh** contributed a chapter with the same title to the special issue.

Anita Auer and **Rajamathangi Shanmugasundaram** gave a talk on “Data Protection, Data Storage and Data Sharing in a Swiss-Indian Research Project” at the [CLARIN-CH webinar on 31 October 2024](#) that was dedicated to “Cross-Border Projects: Which Laws Apply?”.



"WHAT'S IN A NAME?"

Appropriation of Ukrainian Linguistic and Cultural Signifiers

When: Thursday \ October 24 \ 16:15 - 17:45
Where: University of Lausanne, ANTHROPOLE, Room 5060

Tetiana Shevchenko Moderator

Olena Danylovyh (UNIL)
"Using and Misusing the Rus in Medieval Scholarship: Observations from the Field"

Olha Manihda (Institute of Archaeology of the National Academy of Sciences of Ukraine)
"State of Kyivan Rus. Origin, main centers"

Viktoriia Skriabina (UNIL)
"The Power of Naming: from Borscht to Malevych"

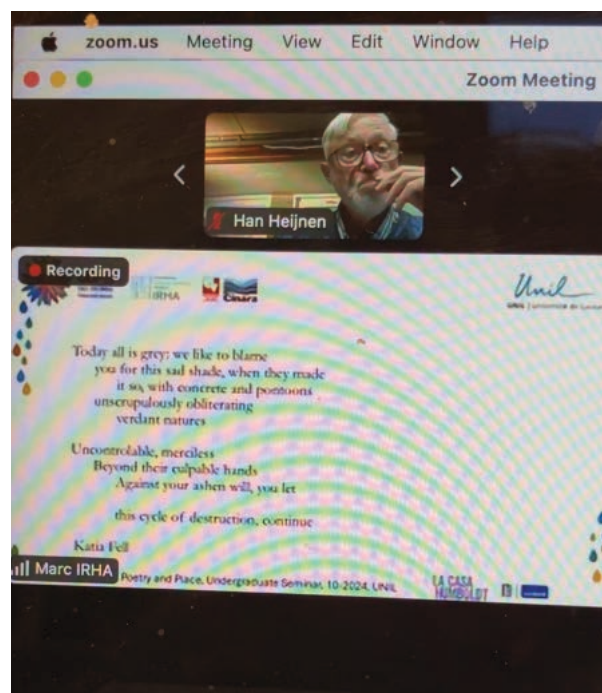
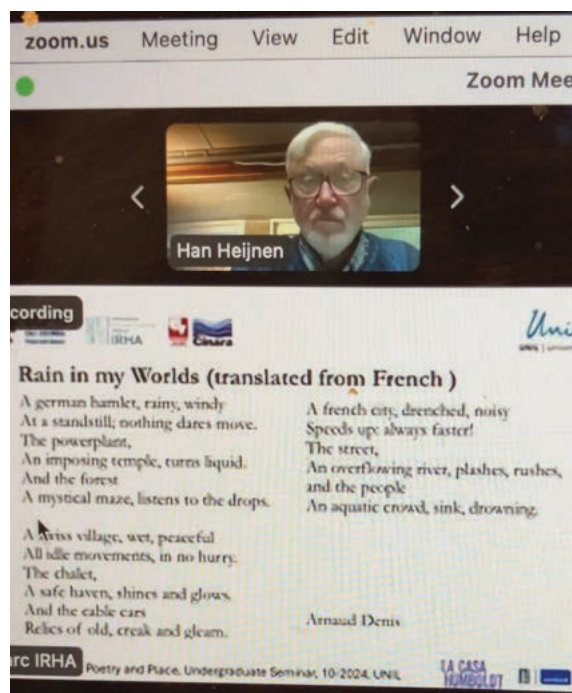
Registration is not required
Organiser: Anastasia Shevchenko (UNIL) anastasia.shevchenko@unil.ch



The Linguistics Research Methods in the Alps workshop, which is aimed at MA students, took place on 11-12 October 2024 at the chalet Les Capucines in Les Diablerets. In this year's edition, presentations were given by **Elisa Passoni** (Queen Mary University of London) on "Beyond Basic Background Information: The Role of Psycho-social Factors in Language Research", **Scott Lewis** (UNIL) on "Studying Speech Production with Ultrasound Tongue Imaging", **Viktoriia Skriabina** (UNIL) on "Investigating Language Interference:

Research Methods and Approaches", and **Beatriz Duarte Wirth** (UNIL) on "Doing Sociolinguistic Research: How to Collect Data Efficiently and Ethically".

Last month, **Rachel Nisbet** undertook two collaborations with the International Rainwater Harvesting Alliance (IRHA). The first involved some students in her seminar *Poetry and Place*. After close reading rain-themed poems by Wordsworth, Clare, Heaney, Hughes, and Oswald, these students then crafted their own poems to support IRHA advocacy on the importance of rainwater harvesting in nurturing biodiversity at [COP 16](#). The warm reception of poems by **Arnaud Denis**, **Katia Fell**, and **Mijail Romero Aguilera** by members of the [IRHA secretariat](#) and [committee](#) (on which Rachel also serves) attests not only to these students' skill as poets, but also to their ability to represent rain politics in a manner that was highly pertinent and distinctly palpable at the event. Here are a couple of screen shots of the poems being shared (with accompanying audio created by the students) as part of a hybrid workshop. The event involved speakers such as WaterAid Colombia, the Mexican Rainwater Harvesting Alliance, and the Raah Foundation India. The students' poems will be shared in a follow up newsletter to the 100 international participants on the Zoom call. Certificates of appreciation are also being issued for Rachel's students by the NGO president **Han Heijnen**, who is pictured below. IRHA hopes that their joint declaration on the value of rainwater harvesting might influence the final declaration at COP 16.



Rachel Nisbet's second prac-academic collaboration with IRHA this month draws on her narrative theory reading for the George Eliot chapter of her PhD. Ideas of focalization, encountered during this research, inform her adaptation of two classic fairy tales to teach local school children about the value of rainwater harvesting in the *Grand Genève* region. Working as a storyteller, **Rachel** created a frame narrative to link these fairy tales to magic-realist stories she also wrote about rainwater harvesting in Nepal and Senegal. In crafting these tales, **Rachel** drew on learnings from a week-long eco-writing workshop with **Marina Warner** and **Alice Oswald**, undertaken during her PhD. The first four performances, for children at the Prevesin Moëns primary school (France) were a success! [Here](#) is the report. A November performance is scheduled in a Swiss primary school.

Forthcoming Events

On 7 November, **Matthew Scully** will present a paper entitled “Rewriting Nature after the Apocalypse: Tommy Pico’s Queer Indigenous Ecology” at the SANAS Biennial Conference, “American Futurisms,” hosted by the University of Geneva.

Guest Lecture “Que traduit-on d’un texte de poésie ?” by Alexis Tautou

14 November, 12:30-14:00, ANT 5060

Organized by **Martine Hennard Dutheil** and **Vanessa Glauser** in collaboration with the CTL. More information [here](#).

Department Lecture Series

Fall 2024

On 14 November, the doctoral roundtable will feature talks by **Kirill Melnikov** and **Mattia Ferrero** and Jessica Brown’s talk, “Can AIs Codeswitch? Exploring Representations of Language in Synthetic Text”, was rescheduled and will now take place on 21 November.

English Department Lecture Series
Ant. 5196 – 16:15-17:45 Fall 2024

September 26
Jessica Brown (*University of Lausanne*)
“Can AIs Codeswitch? Exploring Representations of Language in Synthetic Text”

October 3
Marion Turner (*University of Oxford*)
“Imagining Medieval Lives”

October 17
Ecological Emergency Series

November 14
Doctoral Roundtable

November 21
Enrico Terrinoni (*Università per Stranieri di Perugia*)
“A Finnegans Wake Quantum Translation: Strangelating Joyce’s Book of Changes”

December 5 – Online
Katherine McKittrick (*Queen’s University, CA*)
“Twenty Dreams”

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At the end of November, **Rachel Nisbet** is chairing an investigative panel inquiry at the University of Leeds (School of Performance and Cultural Industries, where she is a visiting post-doc). Her conversation with two professors of theatre from the universities of Manchester and Lancaster, who are also professional theatre-makers (**Steve Scott-Bottoms**, and **Andrew Quick** respectively), aims to support the [White Rose Forest](#) project. Creating a podcast to document their exchange feeds into a wider inquiry about how learnings from applied eco-theatre and from *Frankenstein* stage adaptations might develop equitable, community engagement with the White Rose Forest: thus, furthering rights to nature across Yorkshire. **Rachel** would be immensely grateful if you are able to share [details of this event](#) with colleagues or contacts in the Leeds area!