



Universität Hamburg

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FAKULTÄT

FÜR ERZIEHUNGSWISSENSCHAFT

LITERACY IN DIVERSITY
SETTINGS (LIDS)



DIVERSITY DAYS X LIDS LUNCH LECTURE

Heritage Language Maintenance – The Australian Experience

mit Hanna Torsh und Victoria Benz

Linguistic diversity and social inclusion are a key challenge in contemporary differentiated societies, particularly given unprecedented levels of global migration. Maintaining heritage languages benefits individuals, families and society at large. While barriers to language maintenance persist, opportunities also arise.

In this lecture, Dr Hanna Torsh and Dr Victoria Benz will discuss the case of Australia, a country in which nearly a quarter of all families speak a language other than the majority language English at home. They will shed light on the importance of both familial and institutional efforts in maintaining heritage languages for future generations, specifically addressing digital family practices and bilingual early childhood education.



Dr Hanna Torsh is a lecturer in the Department of Linguistics at Macquarie University and a member of the Language on the Move research team. Her research interests are language in migration, multilingual families and language learning and teaching. In 2020 Hanna's book, *Linguistic Intermarriage in Australia: Between pride and shame*, was published by Palgrave Macmillan.



Dr Victoria Benz is a lecturer at the Institut für Fremdsprachen und Auslandskunde at Friedrich-Alexander-Universität Erlangen-Nürnberg (IFA), where her research and teaching primarily address languages in the education system. She completed her PhD at Macquarie University as part of the Language on the Move research team. Victoria authored the book *Bilingual Childcare: Hitches, Hurdles and Hopes*, published by Multilingual Matters in 2017.

Donnerstag, 26. Juni 2025

12:15-13:45 Uhr, Raum 208

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