



## Relativisation strategies in a Central European perspective: Slavic and beyond

Zurich, October 28–29, 2016

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### Call for papers

Slavic relative constructions and relativisation strategies are quite diverse from both an areal and a diachronic perspective. The diversity concerns a number of phenomena, such as: origin of the relative marker (anaphoric pronoun vs. indefinite/interrogative pronoun), additional marking of the relative pronoun with *že* or *to*, existence and distribution of indeclinable relative markers like Slov. *ki*, Pol. *co*, availability of and conditions on resumption, types of relative constructions (relative clause precedes matrix clause or vice versa, relative clause comprises internal nucleus), etc. Generally speaking, the variation observed in older stages has been reduced and reorganized in different ways, leading to less diverse systems or to functional differentiation. In some regards the Slavic languages show a rather uniform development, e.g. the almost total elimination of preceding relative clauses with an internal nucleus. In other respects, the diachronic changes led to areal patterns, e.g. the implementation of relative *\*kъterъ-jъ* in North Slavic and Slovene. Some of the developments may be due to internal change, while others are most likely the outcome of the impact of external factors such as language contact and standardisation processes.

The workshop intends to shed light on both the internal and external factors that have been at work in shaping the patterns of relative constructions in the modern standard languages as well as in non-standard varieties and dialects. We are particularly interested in the influence of language contact on the emergence of contemporary relativisation strategies in the Central European micro-area comprising South and West Slavic with neighboring Romance and Germanic.

Topics include, but are not restricted to, contact influences and areal patterns concerning:

- Relativisation strategies (relative clauses, participial constructions),
- Relative clauses and NP-determination (referential status, discourse status),
- Formal and functional development of relativisation markers and strategies,
- Functional differentiation within the system of relativisation markers and strategies,
- Metalinguistic descriptions and their (possible) contribution to restricting diachronic variation,
- Impact of discourse tradition and genre on the choice of relativisation markers.

We also encourage the submission of abstracts on non-Slavic languages bordering on the Slavic area.

### Submission details

We invite submissions of anonymous abstracts for 30 minute talks including discussion. Submissions should not exceed one page, Times New Roman 12pt, single spaced, with an optional additional page for examples and references, in word AND pdf format.

Please send your abstracts to Barbara Sonnenhauser ([barbara.sonnenhauser@uzh.ch](mailto:barbara.sonnenhauser@uzh.ch)) and Imke Mendoza ([Imke.Mendoza@sbg.ac.at](mailto:Imke.Mendoza@sbg.ac.at))

### Important dates

Deadline for abstracts: August 1, 2016  
Notification of acceptance: August 15, 2016  
Conference: October 28–29, 2016  
Venue: University of Zurich (Switzerland)