

## HiSoN 2021 Virtual Conference: Intra-Writer Variation in Historical Sociolinguistics

The 2021 international conference of the [Historical Sociolinguistics Network \(HiSoN\)](#) will be held **full online** on **17–19 March 2021** at the Friedrich-Alexander University Erlangen-Nuremberg (FAU).

Intra-writer variation can be considered as one of the new waves in historical sociolinguistics. In modern sociolinguistics, intra-speaker and stylistic variation are now a key ingredient of variationist sociolinguistic research. Resulting from the frequent lack of available information about individual historical writers and the randomness of textual transmission, historical sociolinguistics faces increased difficulties when focusing on individual language use and stylistic repertoires. This may be the reason why intra-writer variation has as yet not received much attention.



Our conference invites contributions that, among others, address the following questions:

- Which factors influence intra-writer variation in historical writing? How can we assess 'free variation'? How can we distinguish stylistic from social variation in historical data?
- Can the concepts of intra-speaker or stylistic variation in modern sociolinguistics be applied to historical data?
- In which kind of historical data can we find intra-writer variation?
- Can effective style-shifting and the scope of a stylistic repertoire be connected to communicative competence and education?
- Is it possible to aggregate local findings of stylistic variation and combine qualitative with quantitative approaches?
- Does the analysis of stylistic variation in writing allow us to observe language change in progress? Can an approach to language history 'from below' benefit from stylistic variation?
- How does intra-writer variation evolve over the lifespan of historical writers?
- What roles do style-shifting and individual language use play within historical social networks and communities of practice?
- Do we have access to metalinguistic discourses on register awareness and (ideologies of) historical styles?
- How can electronic corpora and digital methods be used to assess individual variation?

Presentations will be 20 minutes & 10 minutes discussion. Please send your **abstracts of up to 400 words** (including references) to [conference-hison2021@fau.de](mailto:conference-hison2021@fau.de) by **31 December 2020**. Please note that if you submitted an accepted abstract for the original date of HiSoN 2020 (1–3 April), your abstract will retain its accepted status and there is no need to resubmit your abstract. Just let us know via email that you will attend the 2021 edition. Registration is required for any participant.



The Historical  
Sociolinguistics Network

**Keynote speakers:** Stephan Elspaß (University of Salzburg), Juan Manuel Hernández-Campoy (University of Murcia), Terttu Nevalainen (University of Helsinki), José del Valle (The City University of New York)

**Organizing committee:** Markus Schiegg, Judith Huber, Katharina Gunkler-Frank, Julian Mader, Luzia Pätz

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