



RESEARCH ACTIVITIES
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THE SWEDISH RESEARCH INSTITUTE IN ISTANBUL
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LECTURES, SYMPOSIA & WORKSHOPS

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Sociolinguistics

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National Languages in a Globalizing World
Turkish and Uzbek

In contrast to “state language” or “official language”, a “national language” need not be declared as such by law. However, the more emphasis that is put on the nation-state in modern politics, the stronger the tendency to view a national language as representing in some sense the inhabitants of a well delimited territory stipulated to be a unique state. The two Turkic languages Turkish and Uzbek have played a prominent role in the formation of Turkey and Uzbekistan, respectively, and have themselves undergone profound changes as parts of these state-building processes. In the present-day world, on the other hand, these and other languages develop in a globalizing context where geographic delimitations of language usage are no longer as decisive as they once were. One interesting question in this connection is what impact globalization may have on language planning and, consequently, the languages themselves.

Dr. Birgit N. Schlyter is Professor of Central Asian Studies at Stockholm University and Director of the Swedish Research Institute in Istanbul (SRII). She is the founder and head of Stockholm International Program for Central Asian Studies (SIPCAS). Two conference volumes from the SIPCAS program initiated and co-edited by Dr. Schlyter are *Prospects for Democracy in Central Asia* (2005) and *The Shanghai Cooperation Organization and Eurasian Geopolitics* (2013). Her own major field of research is sociolinguistics, where her most recent publication is “Multilingualism and Language Renewal in Ex-Soviet Central Asia”, in *The Handbook of Bilingualism and Multilingualism* (2013). As Director of SRII, Professor Schlyter is heading a multidisciplinary forum for scholarly meetings and research in a Eurasian perspective.

Refreshments will be served after the lecture

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