

RESEARCH SEMINAR

SRII, Wednesday,

November 25, 2020,

14:00-16:00

Henrik Liljegren (Stockholm)

The Islamic Gunpowder Empires and South Eurasia as a putative linguistic area

In a hypothesis-driven study I aim at finding empirical evidence for a linguistic convergence area correlating with the extension of the three former Islamic Gunpowder Empires, the Ottoman, the Safavid and the Mughal. In this vast region, stretching from the Mediterranean in the west to the Bay of Bengal in the east, there are indications that a significant number of languages, representing different phylogenies, share non-trivial structural properties as a result of a prolonged and intensive contact situation. The extensive use of a few highly influential lingua francas (mainly Persian, Ottoman Turkish and Urdu) came to leave long-lasting traces on a number of less influential and local languages dominated by the former, lexically as well as structurally. A starting point for this study is to investigate the presence, distribution and use of Light Verb Constructions to express distinct verbal meanings. This is observed as particularly frequent and productive in the languages of the region, but has never been the topic of a systematic, comparative, study. Explanations will be sought for the geographical distribution of this and other shared properties, drawing from a broader linguistic perspective and from a historical contact-perspective. Apart from applying a strictly controlled data collection method and an analytical approach developed within the field of areal typology, the study will address issues related to multilingualism, migration and the specific politico-cultural context that emerged in the region and in many ways culminated in the 16th and 17th centuries. In my talk, I will paint the general background, both linguistically and historically (as far as is relevant for the topic), provide some examples of the phenomenon under study, and make some methodological suggestions.

Özge Altın (Uppsala)

Gendered Urban Public Spaces: The Production of Taksim in Daily Life According to Political Discourse

This research investigates the gendered production of urban public space of Taksim in daily life, based on political discourse which is reflected in mainstream media in Turkey. The aim of the research is putting forth the gendered production of space from micro and macro levels of analysis by expatiating the daily life and analyzing the discourse of the government, in examining the following research question: How is the urban public space of Taksim produced as gendered in daily life according to the current political discourse in Turkey? For that inquiry, the research has two main axes in design. The first one is the analysis of the forthcoming patriarchal political discourse that is given by the authorities of the authoritarian AKP government (2002-2020) which is broadcasted in the top-rated media networks in Turkey. The second axis is the ethnography-based case study in the Taksim area in Istanbul, which investigates the social production of the space concerning gender in mundane practices of the users of the area. The subjects of the case study are mostly women, besides LGBT+ and men, because it focuses on the groups of different gender identities that are subjected to patriarchal oppression in daily life. Therefore, the research sought an explanation of belonging to public space by different genders in daily life and the influence of political discourse on it. In this way, this thesis is to contribute to the debates of gendered space through an examination of the effect of the gender-related political discourse which remains inadequate in the researches on gendered space.