



Die Wiener Sprachgesellschaft ladet ein
zu einem Vortrag von

Prof. Dr. Adams BODOMO

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“Complex linguistic repertoires: language profiles of Africans in Guangzhou and in Vienna”

In this presentation, we first construct and analyze broad demographic profiles of diaspora African communities mainly in Guangzhou, China (Bodomo 2010, Bodomo and Silva 2012) and attempt to do so for the community in Vienna, Austria, where we have just launched a pilot project. We then focus on the concept of linguistic repertoire with regards to Africans in the two cities. The term linguistic repertoire, for us, refers to the gamut of languages that a community speaks, reads, and writes and the choices members of this community make in the use of these languages in various communication situations. The term has been defined more broadly as “...a fluid set of linguistic resources that members of an ethnic group may use variably as they index their ethnic identities.” (Benor 2011: 142). As we do more and more linguistic analysis of Diaspora communities in what may be termed “Diaspora Linguistics”, important but neglected theoretical notions such as linguistic repertoire will become more and more salient, and indeed feature prominently in sociolinguistic interactional studies (e.g. Gumperz 1962, Hillery 1955, Hymes 1972, and Labov 1972). Applying this term on empirical data derived from interviews and questionnaire surveys of more than 300 Africans in Guangzhou China and about 20 in Vienna, Austria, we construct various sociolinguistic and sociocultural profiles that explicate a diverse set of multilingual practices in these communities, especially in markets and shopping malls. These markets and malls are veritable sociolinguistic and sociocultural loci where African traders and their hosts grapple with commercial transactions in the absence of a common effective lingua franca.

Zeit: Dienstag, 23. Juni 2015, 18 Uhr 30

Ort: Sensengasse 3a, Hörsaal 1 (1. Stock)

Anschließend, Terrasse: Herzliche Einladung zum **WSG-Sommerfest!**

A. N. Lenz m. p.

H. Ch. Luschützky m. p.