



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO

ID

VP109_DIP_STUDIUM

Visiting Professor Program Academic year 2022/2023

TEACHING COMMITMENT: 36 hours

COURSE TITLE

AN INTRODUCTION TO CLICKS AND THE LANGUAGES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

TEACHING PERIOD

2nd term

SCIENTIFIC AREA

African Linguistics

LANGUAGE USED TO TEACH

English

COURSE SUMMARY

The course will provide:

- A sound knowledge of the physiology of the click sounds so typical of the Khoisan languages of Southwest Africa, as well as;
- An introduction to either Khoekhoe (or Nama)–the most widespread Khoisan languages of Namibia–or either Zulu or Xhosa–the two major Bantu languages of South Africa;
- A general introduction to the prehistory of contact in the South of Africa and the current sociolinguistic situation in the area will bridge the two parts of the course.

The course is ideally targeted to students in African linguistics, in Swahili, in general linguistics and in phonetics. Students from other departments (e.g., MA students in Cultural Anthropology) are also likely to profit from the course.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

To provide students in African languages and in general linguistics with a sound knowledge of click sounds. Ideally, by the end of the course students will be able to perceptually differentiate, transcribe and reproduce clicks and different click influxes.

To give a factual application of the theoretical notions on click sounds with a crash course in a major “click language”, either Khoekhoe or a language of South Africa (Zulu or Xhosa), depending on the availability of qualified applicants.

While a general, basic knowledge of linguistics is required, no preliminary experience with an African language is needed, although some background in Swahili will be most useful.

TUTORSHIP ACTIVITIES

N/A

LAB ACTIVITIES

N/A

OTHER ACTIVITIES BESIDES THE COURSE

The successful applicant will be asked to give a public lecture on click sounds and/or "Khoisan" languages.

VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE

The visiting professor is expected to enjoy international visibility in the field of African linguistics with a focus on Khoisan and South Africa and a solid background and interest in phonetics.

He/she is further expected to have published a sizable number of scholarly works in international journals and venues and have a rich experience in teaching at university (both graduate and undergraduate) level.

CONTACT PERSON AT THE DEPARTMENT

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