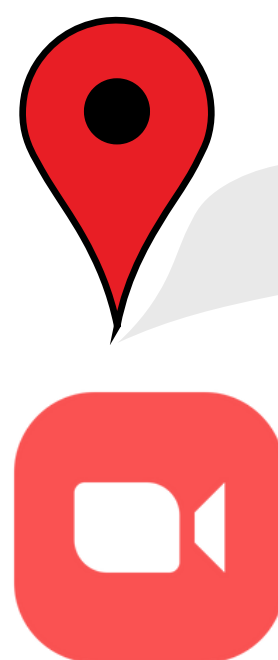


Which Language “Sounds” Better? The War in Ukraine and Language Use Among “Spätaussiedler” in Germany

This presentation explores how language is used across different social spaces within migrant life in Germany, focusing specifically on the “Spätaussiedler” community. Drawing on several years of ethnographic fieldwork in Lower Saxony and Bavaria, the presenter examines two case studies that highlight the complexities of language, identity, and migration. The first case delves into language practices among members of “Spätaussiedler” organizations, analyzing the interplay of German and Russian in both public and private domains during a “Friedland Commemoration” event. The second case investigates the role of language in contexts of conflict, centering on the interactions between “Spätaussiedler” counsellors (Geflüchtetenberater*innen) and recently arrived Ukrainian refugees in Bavaria. Together, these examples shed light on how language choices reflect and shape social belonging in times of political upheaval.



Room 316
Unicampus FTSK Germersheim

Join Online

Guest Speaker

Nino Aivazishvili-Gehne holds a PhD in social anthropology and is a researcher at the Leibniz Institute for East and Southeast European Studies (IOS) in Regensburg. She earned her PhD from Martin Luther University Halle-Wittenberg and was also an associate member at the Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology. She has worked in the social and educational sectors with refugees and migrants and taught at Ruhr University Bochum. From 2021 to 2024, she was a researcher at RECET (University of Vienna) within the project Ambivalences of the Soviet. Her books include *Staatsbürgerschaft an der Grenze* (Reichert, 2023) and *Auf der Suche nach dem guten Leben* (transcript, 2024), both in German.

