

MESSAGE-Forum

The project „MEhrSprachigkeit an Schulen in Europa: Einblicke in Sprachlandschaften (schoolscapes) in Hessen und GroßpolEn (MESSAGE)“ (projekt-message.amu.edu.pl) researches multilingualism at educational institutions in Germany and Poland. Schoolscapes at schools in both countries are the core of MESSAGE. The MESSAGE-Forum presents quarterly presentations by profound experts on topics related to various areas of Linguistic Landscape (LL) research. Everyone interested in LL and language policy research is highly welcome to attend such presentations and discussions free of charge. The second presentation on 6th June will be held by Dr Mamadou Mbaye. His research centres on qualitative-reconstructive teaching research in international contexts, with a particular emphasis on language and multilingualism in the classroom, LL studies and the use of video-based case studies in teacher education.

Dr. Mamadou Mbaye
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The Informal Schoolscape in Senegal between linguistic ,rootedness‘ and ,openness‘

Senegal is a multicultural and multilingual country where the principle of “enracinement et ouverture” (,rootedness‘ and ,openness‘), articulated by its first president in his literary career, constitutes a guiding philosophy of life. Although it is explicitly stated in the national education policy, the principle of openness and top-down processes still predominates education. Despite longstanding calls for linguistic rootedness and an education system more attuned to Senegalese realities progress in this regard has remained limited, despite numerous reforms and appeals from education stakeholders.

This talk presents the findings of a study on the informal LL, characterised by the writings and drawings that learners affix to walls, tables, and chairs. Although often perceived as acts of vandalism, these forms of expression reveal a deeper desire of the learners to appropriate the educational environment and transform it into a space for free and authentic expression. This (often anonymous) form of expression allows them to make their voices heard and address a wide range of subjects and concerns in different languages. A detailed analysis of this LL highlights the complex interaction of different languages within the school setting, as well as the challenges of linguistic and cultural ,openness‘ and ,rootedness‘ in Senegal’s informal schoolscape.



Friday, 06.06.2025



10:00-11:00 AM CET



<https://rwth.zoom-x.de/j/65120937282?pwd=hGIDnJuuDAOwxpPjN8TW26fO4eel.tu.1>



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