

ISW Colloquium – Spring Semester 2024

13.05.2024 | 16:00-17:00 | UniTobler F -111 (U1)

Silvia Natale (UniBE Italianistik):

Progressive from a comparative perspective: Italian vs. (Swiss) German

This presentation explores the universal concept of progressivity through a comparative linguistic analysis. Specifically, the investigation focuses on periphrastic constructions in both Romance languages, represented by Italian, and Germanic languages, including standard German and Swiss German dialects. Progressive constructions such as the Italian "stare + gerund" or the German "am sein + infinitive" show an increasing frequency within the language system. The primary goal is to quantify their frequency using experimental methods, while at the same time identifying attractor effects at the semantic level. In addition to the comparison between Italian and German, the study extends to a comparison between Standard German and Swiss German, taking into account the above mentioned parameters.