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**UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN**

**Berner Zirkel für Sprachwissenschaft**

Vortrag vom 26. Februar 2020

Unitobler, Lerchenweg 36, 3012 Bern

**18:15 h**, Raum F 006

Philosophisch-historische Fakultät

Departement für Sprach- und  
Literaturwissenschaften I

**Institut für Sprachwissenschaft**

## **Examining historic language contact with contemporary phonetic and phonological data : the case of Mapudungun and Spanish**

Scott Sadowsky, Catholic University of Chile / Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, Jena

### **Abstract**

The contact between European and Amerindian languages in the New World was not typically documented until centuries after it occurred, leaving a significant gap in our knowledge. At the same time, a strong Eurocentric bias has led to the nearly ubiquitous assumption that nearly all differences between the Spanish of Spain and the Americas are due to language-internal forces rather than contact phenomena. This talk uses contemporary phonetic data to shed light on the influence that Mapudungun, the language of the Southern Cone's Mapuche people, may have had on Chilean Spanish. I examine the vowels, vowel space size, /p/ allophones and /k/ allophones of Chilean Spanish, comparing them with those of both Mapudungun and other varieties of Spanish. I conclude that Chilean Spanish has undergone a series of structural phonological changes that are best explained by contact with Mapudungun.

### **Dr. Scott Sadowsky**

Scott Sadowsky is an Assistant Professor of Linguistics at the Catholic University of Chile (Santiago, Chile) and Research Associate at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History's Department of Linguistic and Cultural Evolution (Jena, Germany). His research interests center on language variation and change, acoustic phonetics, contact linguistics and corpus linguistics, with special emphasis on Spanish and Mapudungun.