



Universität Hamburg

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FAKULTÄT

FÜR ERZIEHUNGSWISSENSCHAFT

LITERACY IN DIVERSITY  
SETTINGS (LIDS)



## New Approaches to Language Shift in Indigenous Communities

### LiDS Lunch Lecture mit Dr. Hannah Sarvasy

The past thirty years saw unprecedented research investments in endangered language studies, along with ever-growing public awareness of language endangerment: we are currently in the UN-designated 'Decade of Indigenous Languages' (2022-2032). Yet there is little evidence that recent endangered language research has served to stem the tide of language endangerment around the world. In the same thirty-year period, the world's key hotspot for linguistic diversity, Papua New Guinea--home to 13% of the world's languages--has seen the most dramatic decreases in youth knowledge of Indigenous languages in known history. In this talk, I will outline our team's new approaches to language shift in Papua New Guinea, with potential lessons for other societies facing language endangerment.

The lecture is held in English.



**Dr Hannah Sarvasy** (PhD James Cook University) is a Senior Researcher at the MARCS Institute for Brain, Behaviour and Development at Western Sydney University. She is a linguist active at the intersection of child language acquisition, field-based psycholinguistic experimentation, and primary grammatical description. She maintains long-term research collaborations with the Nungon-speaking communities in the Saruwaged Mountains, Papua New Guinea and Tashlhiyt speakers in the Atlas Mountains of Morocco, and previously conducted extensive fieldwork with Kim and Bom speakers in Sierra Leone. She has published over 60 academic works in linguistics and allied fields, and previously worked as Lecturer in Linguistics at the University of California, Los Angeles, and as Research Fellow at the Australian National University.

Donnerstag, 22. Januar 2026

12:15-13:45 Uhr, Raum R020

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