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FÜR ERZIEHUNGSWISSENSCHAFT

LITERACY IN DIVERSITY SETTINGS (LiDS)

Language policy and grassroots initiatives in minority language education in Russia

LiDS Lunch Lecture mit Dr. Vlada Baranova

This talk examines minority language education in Russia amid increasing centralization, focusing on grassroots initiatives. Drawing on the framework of micro-level language policy and planning (Liddicoat & Taylor-Leech 2014), it analyses the role of bottom-up actors. The study is based on online interviews and ethnographic research (2022-2024) in Kalmykia, Buryatia, and Bashkortostan, complemented by earlier interviews (2018-2021). Despite a decline in minority-language classes, the findings reveal hidden resistance among teachers and parents, alongside growing grassroots initiatives, including 'commodification' (Heller, Duchêne 2012) of indigenous languages. While official discourse reflects intensified russification since 2018, grassroots efforts continue to reshape education by fostering participation and more flexible learning practices. This lecture is held in English.

Dr Vlada Baranova researches Kalmyk and Chuvash languages, Mariupol Greeks, language activism, and migration. Her PhD (2010) examined language and identity among Mariupol Greeks; her 2023 book focuses on language policy and activism in Russia. She previously worked at HSE (St. Petersburg) and is currently a visiting researcher at the University of Hamburg at the Institute of Finno-Ugric/Uralic Studies.

Donnerstag, 04. Juni 2026

12:15—13:45 Uhr, Raum 213

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https://uhh.de/ew-lids