

# Urban Sociolinguistics

The City as a Linguistic Process  
and Experience

*Edited by*  
**Dick Smakman** and  
**Patrick Heinrich**





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# Urban Sociolinguistics

From Los Angeles to Tokyo, *Urban Sociolinguistics* is a sociolinguistic study of twelve urban settings around the world. Building on William Labov's famous New York study, the authors demonstrate how language use in these areas is changing based on belief systems, behavioural norms, day-to-day rituals and linguistic practices.

All chapters are written by key figures in sociolinguistics and present the personal stories of individuals using linguistic means to go about their daily communications in diverse sociolinguistic systems such as:

- extremely large urban conurbations like Cairo, Tokyo and Mexico City
- smaller areas like Paris and Sydney
- less urbanised places such as the Western Netherlands Randstad area and Kohima in India.

Providing new perspectives on crucial themes such as language choice and language contact, code-switching and mixing, language and identity, language policy and planning and social networks, this is key reading for students and researchers in the areas of multilingualism and superdiversity within sociolinguistics, applied linguistics and urban studies.

**Dick Smakman** is Lecturer at Leiden University Centre for Linguistics (LUCL), The Netherlands.

**Patrick Heinrich** is Associate Professor at the Department of Asian and Mediterranean African Studies at Ca' Foscari University in Venice, Italy.

Together, they are the co-editors of *Globalising Sociolinguistics* (2015).



**For daughters**





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**Patrick Heinrich** is Associate Professor at the Department of Asian and Mediterranean African Studies at Ca' Foscari University in Venice. His present research interests focus on sociolinguistics, language endangerment and the sociology of youth. In his research, Heinrich endeavours to incorporate sociological theory and methodology more firmly into the study of language. His regional focus is Japan. Edited books include (with Dick Smakman) *Globalising Sociolinguistics* (2015) and (with Shinsho Miyara and Michinori Shimoji) *Handbook of the Ryukyuan Languages* (2015). His latest monograph is *The Making of Monolingual Japan* (2012).

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**Dick Smakman** is Lecturer at Leiden University. His interests include pronunciation choices by speakers and the sociolinguistics of second-language acquisition. With Patrick Heinrich, he edited *Globalising Sociolinguistics: Challenging and Expanding Theory*. He is currently finishing *Discovering Sociolinguistics:*



*From Theory to Practice* (2017), which is a practical course-book that introduces the field and the practicalities of doing sociolinguistic research.

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# Acknowledgements

The encouraging reception of our first jointly edited book, *Globalising Sociolinguistics: Challenging and Expanding Theory*, during a symposium on the very same topic in Leiden in 2015 led us to consider editing a second volume. For us, the working title of this book has always been “Globalising Sociolinguistics II”. However, contrary to the first book, we no longer wanted to simply focus on understudied or overlooked cases, languages or settings but chose to add a thematic subject in order to challenge and expand sociolinguistic theory. The first idea that stuck, and survived, was “language ecology”, and while we were discussing ecologies, we ended up increasingly talking about how language ecologies in the cities we knew had changed during our lifetime. This led to the idea to study language ecologies in the city while keeping the original idea of globalising sociolinguistics.

As in our first book, we asked both colleagues we know and those whose work we admired but did not know personally to help us produce this book. Their readiness to engage with us in this publication has been admirable, and it speaks volumes about their passion and readiness to tackle new and complex tasks. Every chapter in this book takes a different approach. Reading these chapters made us aware of the breadth of sociolinguistic research, and we learned a lot along the way of producing this volume. Getting to know new cities, and doing so from a sociolinguistic perspective, has been a real treat for us.

We are grateful to everyone who contributed to writing and producing this book. As before, it has been a pleasure planning and realising this book with the staff at Routledge. The most important group of people for any book are, however, its readers. In editing this volume, we always imagined a global readership. Ultimately, the litmus test of globalising sociolinguistics is whether it is seen to be relevant and helpful for sociolinguistic studies around the globe. This book is an attempt to produce a volume that may be read everywhere from Tokyo to Mexico City, from Moscow to São Paulo’s and from Cairo to Sydney.

*Dick Smakman and Patrick Heinrich  
Nijmegen and Venice*



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