CHN 6208 The Linguistic Landscape of China

Time and Location:

- Week 1-16: Tuesday **8:55 am – 11:40 pm, Online via (To be announced)**

  Zoom ID: To be announced
  Zoom password: To be announced

Office Hour and Contact:
- Physical Meeting: by appointment.
- The most efficient way to contact me is by **email mgerner@sjtu.edu.cn**.
- A wechat group is set up for this class: (To be announced)

- Course Website:
    - o CANVAS: oc.sjtu.edu.cn
    - o MOOC：(To be announced)
    - o https://shss.sjtu.edu.cn/faculty/mgerner

Important Dates:
- First Day of Class: September 06, 2021
- Last Day of Class: December 26, 2021
- Due dates of written assignments:
    - o Assignment 1: October 15, 2021
    - o Assignment 2: November 19, 2021
    - o Assignment 3: December 17, 2021

Course Objective:
This module presents an overview of the more than 600 languages spoken in China, including their history, sociolinguistic settings and structural features in terms of sound, morphology and syntax. Students acquire systematic knowledge of the existing language families in China: the Sinitic ("Chinese Dialects"), Altaic, Tibeto-Burman, Tai-Kadai, Miao-Yao and Austronesian languages. They get to understand the Chinese and Western definitions of language and appreciate differences in language diversity of both China and Europe. Students will comprehend the events that shaped the linguistic landscape of Modern China: the adoption

of the speech of Beijing as lingua franca in 1913 and the spread of this lingua franca due to internal migration after the 1980s.

Prerequisites:

Previous knowledge of linguistic notions in phonetics, morphology and syntax will be advantageous, but students can catch up on the linguistic basics during the semester. They are provided a glossary of linguistic notions at the beginning of the semester.

Textbooks and References:

- Lecture notes of Matthias Gerner
  Based on personal research data and other sources including:
- Diller, Anthony V. N., Jerold A. Edmondson, Yongxian Luo. (2011). *The Tai-Kadai Languages*. London: Routledge.
- Janhunen, Juha (ed.). (1998). *The Mongolic Languages*. London: Routledge.
- Norman, J. (1988). *Chinese*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Thurgood, Graham and Randy La Polla (eds.). (2003). *The Sino-Tibetan Languages*. London: Routledge.
- (…)

Grading Policy:

- Final Exam: 60%
  The final exam controls the systematic acquisition of knowledge of the language situation in China.
- Assignments: 30%
  Students work on three homework assignments, each covering a set of linguistic data
- Class Participation: 10%
  Students are graded for class attendance and for asking pertinent questions.

Course Outline:

The course will be taught in 16 lectures organized as follows:

1. Sociolinguistic Introduction
2. The Sinitic Languages: Mandarin, Jin and Gan
3. The Sinitic Languages: Wu and Min
4. The Sinitic Languages: Xiang, Hakka and Yue
5. Altaic Languages: Mongolic
6. Altaic Languages: Tungusic
7. Altaic Languages: Turkic
8. Tibeto-Burman: Bodish
9. Tibeto-Burman: Loloish

10. Tibeto-Burman: Qiangic
11. Tai-Kadai: Kam, Sui and Zhuang
12. Tai-Kadai: Tai, Hlai, Be
13. Miao-Yao: Miao
14. Miao-Yao: Yao
15. Austronesian (Taiwan)
16. Conclusion