

Call for Papers

„Assessing Academic Language Proficiency and Languages for Specific Academic Purposes – Bringing together School and Higher Education Activities“

On **November 9 and 10, 2018** the researchers and practitioners group **SPRACHE.TESTEN** at the Ruhr-University Bochum is hosting a symposium on the subject of „Assessing Academic Language Proficiency and Languages for Specific Academic Purposes – Bringing together School and Higher Education Activities“.

Target groups

There are numerous target groups involved in divergent contexts related to the assessment of language proficiency for educational and academic purposes, both in Germany, Europe and beyond:

- Institutions of higher education where assessment of academic language skills (mainly English) of German students (**EAP**) and assessment of German as a Foreign Language of foreign (incoming) students (**DaF**) are in focus.
- Institutions of primary and secondary education where assessment of German for educational purposes, both in Germany and in German schools abroad (**DaZ**) and assessment of language skills within Content and Language Integrated Learning (**CLIL**) programmes are in focus.
- Furthermore, the assessment of academic proficiency in **heritage languages** (Russian, Polish, and Turkish) is relevant for all the above-mentioned contexts and levels of education.

Aims

In the assessment process, all stakeholders are confronting similar questions and challenges, which, however, have been raised within each specific context or level of education only in isolation so far. The aim of the symposium is to systematise the activities in each (sub-)discipline and thus to benefit from approaches and considerations of other participants, to ultimately advance the assessment of academic language proficiency and languages for specific academic purposes in all contexts. A publication of the meeting's proceedings is planned to make the discussions and outcomes accessible to a wider audience.

Confirmed plenary speakers are Prof. Dr. Christiane Dalton-Puffer (Universität Wien), Prof. Dr. Anthony Green (CRELLA, University of Bedfordshire), Prof. Dr. Christian Krekeler (Hochschule Konstanz HTWG) and Dr. Judith Köhne-Fuetterer (TestDaF Institut).

Supported by

Topics for contribution

The organisers welcome contributions for presentations in English and German (**up to 30 min., including 10 min. for discussion**) related to any of the following topics:

Test purpose and objective

What purposes does the assessment of academic and specific competencies serve in various contexts? To what extent does the actual test purpose influence the test construct and test tasks used?

Test construct and assessment criteria

How is the test construct operationalised? How can the target competencies be modelled? To what extent is it possible to distinguish between academic, specific and non-linguistic competencies? How should different components of academic competence be reflected in the assessment criteria? How does the age of examinees influence the test construct?

Test task and test format

Which test tasks and formats lend themselves to assessing academic language proficiency or specific aspects thereof? What strengths or challenges are associated with particular test tasks/formats?

Challenges and conditions

What are the institutional and practical challenges that test stakeholders have to cope with?

Please submit your abstract (**300 words max.**) by **Thursday, May 31, 2018** as an email attachment at sprachetesten@rub.de.

For further details and the conference programme, please see www.rub.de/sprachetesten.

Best wishes,

Prof. Anastasia Drackert, Mirka Mainzer-Murrenhoff, Anna Soltyska und Anna Timukova