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# Urban dialects in the city of Bern

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# $u^{b}$

### **Overview**

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- > Introduction
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  - Language in Bern
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- > The project idea and basic information
- Methods now and then
- > Results and analysis
- Discussion



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Abteilung Aussenbeziehungen und Statistik (Austa) Statistik Stadt Bern

### > Demography



#### Bevölkerungsstruktur Ende 2018

Stadt Bern

				Т (	)1.01.510i
		2018	2017	Vers	änderung
				2017	<sup>7</sup> bis 2018
				absolut	in %
Total Wohnbevölke	rung	142 493	142 479	14	0.0
Geschlecht					
männlich		68 333	68 142	191	0.3
weiblich		74 160	74 337	-177	- 0.2
Nationalität					
Schweizer/in	nen	108 118	107 614	504	0.5
davon	Niedergelassene	100 431	99 869	562	0.6
	Wochenaufenthaltende	7 687	7 745	<b>–</b> 58	-0.7
Ausländer/ini	nen	34 375	34 865	<b>– 490</b>	-1.4
davon	Deutschland	6 345	6 643	- 298	- 4.5
	Italien	4 200	4 276	<b>–</b> 76	-1.8
	Spanien	1 970	2 054	- 84	- 4.1
	Portugal	1 551	1 587	- 36	-2.3
	Mazedonien	1 238	1 228	10	0.8
	Kosovo	1 230	1 228	2	0.2
	Türkei	1 182	1 192	-10	-0.8
	Frankreich	863	906	<b>– 43</b>	-4.7
	Eritrea	841	772	69	8.9
	Sri Lanka	812	827	<b>–</b> 15	-1.8
	Serbien	737	754	-17	-2.3
	China	652	620	32	5.2
	Österreich	649	687	- 38	- 5.5
	übrige Nationalitäten	12 105	12 091	14	0.1
Altersstruktur					
00–06 Jahre		9 492	9 394	98	1.0
07–15 Jahre		9 073	8 866	207	2.3
16–19 Jahre		3 823	3 864	<b>– 41</b>	-1.1
20-64 Jahre		96 816	97 046	- 230	- 0.2
65 Jahre und	l mehr	23 289	23 309	- 20	- 0.1



#### Wanderungsbewegungen 2016 bis 2018

**Stadt Bern** 

> Mobili	ity
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Staut Belli	2018	2017	2016
Zuzug	2010	2017	2010
Familien	467	595	578
Total Personen	12 132	12 766	12 674
davon Personen im Familienverband	1 358	1 752	1 620
Einzelpersonen	10 774	11 014	11 054
davon Schweizer/innen	7 456	7 822	7 606
Ausländer/innen	4 676	4 944	5 068
davon Gemeinden der RKBM	3 103	3 237	3 160
übriger Kanton Bern	1 942	2 035	2 009
übrige Schweiz	3 713	3 901	3 824
Ausland	3 374	3 593	3 681
davon 0–15 Jahre	705	780	794
16–19 Jahre	509	542	569
20–29 Jahre	6 097	6 311	6 299
30–64 Jahre	4 535	4 838	4 754
65 und älter	286	295	258
Wegzug			
Familien	826	810	849
Total Personen	12 633	12 157	11 785
davon Personen im Familienverband	2 633	2 545	2 697
Einzelpersonen	10 000	9 612	9 088
davon Schweizer/innen	7 718	7 490	7 603
Ausländer/innen	4 915	4 667	4 182
davon Gemeinden der RKBM	4 035	4 115	4 351
übriger Kanton Bern	1 775	1 624	1 558
übrige Schweiz	3 691	3 392	3 448
Ausland	3 132	3 026	2 428
davon 0-15 Jahre	1 180	1 099	1 181
16–19 Jahre	206	255	230
20–29 Jahre	4 766	4 595	4 263
30–64 Jahre	6 038	5 778	5 775
65 und älter	443	430	336

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### > Commuting

Mobilität		
Motoris ierungsgrad (Personenwagen pro 1000 Einwohner)	2018	392
Durchschnittliche Dauer des Arbeitsweges, in Minuten	2018	39
Arbeitspendler total (weg-, Zu- und Binnenpendler)	2018	185162
mit Öffentlichem Verkehr, in %	2018	60,2
mit Motorisiertem Individualverkehr, in %	2018	26,5
mit Langsamverkehr, in %	2018	13,3

### Occupation

Wirtschaftlicher Kontext		
Beschäftigte total	2018	189 079
im 1. Sektor, in %	2018	0,2
im 2. Sektor, in %	2018	8,0
im 3. Sektor, in %	2018	91,8
Beschäftigte im IKT-Sektor und in Medienbranche	2018	8 571



# Languages in Bern

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### > Languages

	German and Swiss German	92008
	French and its dialects	7439
—	Italian and its dialects	5663
—	Romansh	208
—	English	7364
	Spanish	3555
_	Serbian and Croatian	2942
	Albanian	2292
	Portuguese	1923
	Turkish	1506
_	Others	9541



# Languages in Bern

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			Willkommen in Bern
>	Languages		Sind Sie neu in Bern? Um Sie
	<ul> <li>German and Swiss German</li> </ul>	92008	beim Einleben zu unterstützen, finden Sie Informationen auch
	<ul> <li>French and its dialects</li> </ul>	7439	in anderen Sprachen.
	<ul> <li>Italian and its dialects</li> </ul>	5663	Deutsch
	<ul><li>Romansh</li></ul>	208	Français Italiano
	— English	7364	English
	<ul><li>— Spanish</li></ul>	3555	Leichte Sprache Gebärdensprache
	<ul> <li>Serbian and Croatian</li> </ul>	2942	Español Português
	<ul><li>— Albanian</li></ul>	2292	العربية - Arabisch
	<ul><li>Portuguese</li></ul>	1923	Српски /Bosanski/Hrvatski Shqip
	<ul><li>Turkish</li></ul>	1506	Tamilisch - தமிழ்
	— Others	9541	Tigrinya - ት <i>ግሁኛ</i> Türkçe



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### > Dialect(s)

- First observations by Baumgartner in 1942: Early Sociolinguistic Study
- Included in the Swiss Dialect Survey SDS by (Hotzenköcherle and Baumgartner 1962-2003)
- Study on disappearing upper class society by Siebenhaar in 2010
- Pilot study on ethnolectal Bernese Swiss German in Bern by Grossenbacher, Britain and Schneider (2019)
- Youth Language project including the city of Bern launched in 2019 by
   Britain and Schneider



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- > Dialect(s) (Baumgartner 1942)
  - Lesser I-vocalisation (Milch Miuch) (milk)
  - Lesser velarisation (Hund Hung) (dog)
  - Lesser monophthongisation (Boum Buum) (tree)
  - Conservation of upper class vocabulary because of it's prestige



# **Project**

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### > Research idea

- To describe and explain language variation and change in the Greater area of Bern in the past approx. 100 years
- Hypothesis: Bernese Swiss German has changed due to language/dialect contact, speaker migration/mobility and changes in the social structure of the research area.

### Historical material

- Swiss Dialect Survey
  - Founded 1935, fieldwork 1939-1958
  - published 1962 1997 in 8 volumes
  - 1500 informants (NORMs and NORFs), 600 localities, 2500 questions



# Methods then: The City of Bern

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- > Swiss Dialect Survey
  - Surveyed in September 1944
  - More than one person interviewed (7 informants)
  - Not only men (2 women, 5 men)
  - Different age groups (18, 49, 65, 51, 66, 77, nA)
  - Social stratification included (middle class and upper class)
  - Questionnaire problematic
  - Not full questionnaire answered by every informant

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### Methods now

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#### Localities

20 Localities already surveyed in the SDS, one of them: the City of Bern

#### Informants

4 (18-35, 36-65, 65+ and a famer), gender equality if possible

#### Data collection

Questionnaire (2 versions), spontaneous speech, translation (Northwind and sun)

#### Variables

 120 variables already documented in the Swiss language atlas, covering phonology, syntax and morphology, also new variables

#### — Result

Corpus of 11600 tokens, 91h spontaneous speech, approx. 10h translation

# **Results and Analysis**

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- Lesser I-vocalisation? No!
  - SDS: Milch (milk)
  - Young: Miuch
  - Middle: Miuch
  - Old: Miuch
  - Farmer: Miuch
  - Bottom-up change, originates in the rural areas in the east of Bern,
     spread to the city
  - Today, vocalisation of the majority of all /l/ (not in intervocalic position)

# **Results and Analysis**

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- > Lesser velarisation? No!
  - SDS: Hund (dog)
  - Young: Hung
  - Middle: Hung
  - Old: Hung
  - Farmer: Hung
  - Bottom-up change, originates in the rural areas in the west of Bern, spread to the city
  - Today, *Hund* is still around, but (unfortunately?) not in my data

# **Results and Analysis**

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- Lesser monophthongisation? Yes!
  - SDS: Boum (tree)
  - Young: Boum
  - Middle: Boum
  - Old: Boum
  - Farmer: Boum
  - Monophthong form was present around Bern in 1944, mainly in the southern parts
  - Still present today, but not in the city



# **Results and Analysis**

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- About monophthongisation:
  - Considered to be a very rural feature
  - Middle and younger speakers who commute to the city tend to switch between the forms
  - In rural areas used for differentiation:

Belp2: Nei, I säge Buum. I wott sicher nid töne wi die ir Stadt. No, I say "Buum". I absolutly don't want to sound like a city speaker.

# **Results and Analysis**





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- Conservation of upper class vocabulary: Yes...
  - SDS: Längscheichler
  - Young: Wäberchnächt
  - Middle: Längscheichler
  - Old: Wäberchnächt
  - Farmer: Spinnele

Bern4: Miner Eutere hei no Längscheichler gseit. I säge dene hüt aune Spinnele.

My parents used to say "Längscheichler". I call them all spiders today.

# **Results and Analysis**

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- Conservation of upper class vocabulary: ...and no!
  - SDS: Summervogel (butterfly)
  - Young: Schmätterling
  - Middle: Schmätterling
  - Old: Schmätterling
  - Farmer: Schmätterling
- Original SDS material shows: Upper class person used French word (papillon), Schmätterling was very present, Summervogel only once
- Rural SDS variant (Pfifolter et al.) wasn't mentioned in the city



## Discussion and concluding remarks

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- > Loss of upper class city variety and its features (cf. Siebenhaar 2010)
- Spread of the city variety to the agglomeration, only one agglomeration locality surveyed in the SDS
- Conscious differentiation starts right outside the agglomeration
- Rural areas: city dialect considered as "posh", but specially commuters change their register when working in the city



## **Next steps**

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- City will be analysed like the other surveyed localities
  - Multiple data sources available → inclusion of youth language and ethnolects possible
  - More linguistic landscaping necessary, specially in multiethnolectal areas
  - Study only on city language/dialect in planning

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# Thank you!