

Anna Schnitzer M. A.:
**Country Study on Discourse and Practice of Multilingualism
in a Country of the Global South**

In Germany and in Switzerland as well, multilingualism of children and youth is an often and controversially discussed topic. In these discussions, a negative and deficit oriented view on the phenomena is emerging frequently. But what about the attitude regarding research discourse and praxis in a country of the global south, which is not structured monolingually like the majority of European states?

Within the scope of a fellowship in the project "*Universality and the Acceptance Potential of Social Science Knowledge: On the Circulation of Knowledge between Europe and the Global South*" the theoretical discourse and the daily practice of multilingualism will be studied in a chosen country of the global south, namely India. The case of India has been chosen because there is equal use of a multiplicity of languages, both structurally and legally.

The study is planned as a part of the author's topically traced PhD-thesis. The objective of this country study is to work out the point of view on multilingualism in India in addition to the debate and practice in the monolingually organized European nation states and to analyse also if there is a merely problem-oriented view or rather if there are dimensions of capabilities predominating the "normality of multilingualism".

The contribution of the study, as a part of the fellowship within the framework of the PhD-research, lies particularly in the widening of the attitude towards multilingualism of children and youth in a society where multiple languages are spoken and understood side by side. Hopefully and consequentially, it will be possible to find additional perspectives and arguments that contribute to the discourse on language competences and gains linked to multilingual language use as practised by many young migrants in Germany and Switzerland.

Short CV

Anna Schnitzer is research assistant at the chair for Extracurricular Learning and Education at the Institute for Education, University of Zurich. She studied sociology, philosophy, French translation and ethnology at the universities of Halle (Saale), Germany, and St. Denis, La Réunion. Lastly, she was working as a social scientist at the German Youth Institute, Branch Halle. Regarding research and teaching, her fields of interest are educational, migration and social disparity research as well as qualitative research strategies.

Contact: University of Zurich, Institute for Education, Freiestrasse 36, CH-8032 Zürich, phone: +41 44 634 28 53, email: aschnitzer@ife.uzh.ch