

Curriculum Vitae



Prof. Dr. Karin Birkner

German Linguistics
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Current Position

04/08 to current Chair of German Linguistics at the German Department, University of Bayreuth

Areas of expertise

Applied Linguistics, Medical Communication, Conversation Analysis & Interactional Linguistics, Intercultural Communication, Grammar of Spoken Language

Academic Formation

- 07/2007 Habilitation at the Philological Faculty, University of Freiburg, Title: *Relativ(satz)konstruktionen im gesprochenen Deutsch: Syntaktische, prosodische, semantische und pragmatische Aspekte* (Relative Clause Constructions in Spoken German: Syntactic, Prosodic, Semantic and Pragmatic Aspects)
- 10/06–04/08 Research Associate, Project: *Subjektive Krankheitstheorien im Gespräch* (Subjective Illness Theories in Interactions) at the University of Freiburg, funded by the German Research Foundations
- 06/99–09/06 Research Associate at the German Department, University of Freiburg
- 09/99 Doctorate at the German Department, University of Hamburg, PHD thesis: *Ost- und Westdeutsche im Bewerbungsgespräch. Eine kommunikative Gattung in Zeiten gesellschaftlichen Wandels* (East and West Germans in job interviews. A communicative genre in times of social change), supervisor: Prof. Peter Auer. Final grade: excellent

- 11/94–12/98 Research Associate, Project: *Alltagsrhetorik von Ost- und Westdeutschen in Bewerbungsgesprächen* (Daily rhetoric of East and West Germans during job interviews) at the Department of German Studies at the University of Hamburg and the German Department at the University of Freiburg, project leader: Prof. Peter Auer
- 06/93–04/94 Research Associate, Project: *Erweiterung sozialer Kompetenz von Jungen und Mädchen* (Enhancement of social skills in boys and girls) at the Department of Education, University of Bielefeld, project leader: Ilse Brehmer
- 06/91–05/92 Research Associate, German Research Foundation's (DFG) Project *P-MoLL* (Language acquisition of Polish immigrants) at the Department for German Studies, FU Berlin, project leader: Prof. Norbert Dittmar
- 10/92–09/94 Graduate Certificate Program *German as a foreign language*, University of Bielefeld. Final grade: excellent
- 03/91 Graduation (Magistra Artium) study programm German and Spanish Philology (Magister). MA-Thesis: *Konversation im Sprachkontakt. Zur Verständnisherstellung zwischen Muttersprachlern und Lernern des Deutschen* (Conversations within language contact. Establishing an understanding between native speakers and German language learners), Supervisor: Prof. Norbert Dittmar, Free University Berlin. Final grade: excellent

Research & Collaborations

- 2023-2027 Funding of the research Project *Bibelperformanzen* by the German Research Foundation's (DFG), collaborative project with Prof. U. Roth, University of Erlangen, and Prof. D. Plüss, University of Bern, Switzerland (D-A-CH Lead Agency-Verfahren)
- 2021–2024 Funding of a Georg Forster-fellowship for Dr. Ahmad Izadi, Iran. Topic: *Doctor-patient interactions in Iran: The co-construction of asymmetries in talk in secondary care medical consultations*
- 2020–2024 Funding of a Research Cooperation by the AvH-Foundation with Dr. Stephen Akinola Odebunmi, Department of English, University of Ibadan, Nigeria, Topic: *Interactive Dynamics and Contexts of Nigerian and German Doctor-Patient-Encounters*
- 2019 Participation in a delegation trip of the University of Bayreuth to Cuba, 24.02.-03.03.2019
- 02/17–03/17 Short term lecturership at the University of Havana, Cuba, funded by DAAD
- 2015 to current Member of the *Transdisciplinary Research Network 'Videoanalysis of Religious Practice*, Theology, Sociology and Linguistics at the universities of Bayreuth, Frankfurt and Bern

2012–2014	Member of the network <i>Multimodality</i> (German Research Foundation)
03/11–09/12	External Fellow at the Freiburg Institute of Advanced Studies (FRIAS), Project: <i>'Action' in Conversation Analysis</i>
2006 – 2008	Member of the network <i>Construction Grammar</i> (German Research Foundation)
2004–2006	Colaboration in the interdisciplinary project <i>Zur Entwicklung eines gemeinsamen Schmerzverständnisses im psychotherapeutischen Gespräch mit somatoformen Patienten</i> (On the development of a common understanding of pain in conversation with patients suffering from somatoform disorders) with Prof. Peter Auer, German Department (chair), Anne Stresing, German Department, OA Dr. Kurt Fritzsche, University Medical Center of Freiburg, Department of psychosomatics and psychotherapeutical medicine
2000 - 2008	Colaboration in the research project <i>Krankengeschichten von Patientinnen mit chronischen Gesichtsschmerzen. Eine interdisziplinäre Untersuchung von Linguistik und Zahnmedizin</i> (Illness narratives of patients suffering from chronic facial pain. An interdisciplinary analysis of linguistics and dentistry), with OA Dr. Jens Türp, Fabian Overlach, external funding by the University of Freiburg, funding pool for temporary research projects (term: 2000 – 2001)

Further Activities (selection)

since 1/24	President of the German Society of Applied Linguistics (GAL e.V.) 2016-2023 vice president, 2014-2016 further member, 2004–2010 head of the section Conversation Analysis/ Member of the advisory board, 9/2011 Organizer of the Annual Conference of the GAL e.V. in Bayreuth, 2006–2008 participant of the organization team of the conference <i>AILA 2008</i>
2022 -2026	Funding for a postdoc-position at the chair of German Linguistics, Dr. Annamaria Fabian, Principal investigator of the research project <i>The communicative realization of inclusion for people with disability in social media</i>
2023	(with Dr. Annamária Fábián) Colaboration with Prof. S. Sauerwein, research stay and conference attendance at the University of Nanterre, Paris, <i>Digital communicative strategies in social media for the inclusion of people with disability</i> , funded by BayFrance, Centre de Coopération Universitaire Franco-Bavarios
since 2016	Organizer of the Research Focus <i>Refugees</i> at GAL e.V. (with Prof. P. Rosenberg und B. Hufeisen) link
2015 to current	Member of the selection committee for PHD-scholarships at the foundation Ev. Studienwerk Villigst

- 10/18 to current Vice gender representative at the University of Bayreuth, also 10/11–9/14
- 10/14–09/18 Gender representative at the University of Bayreuth
- 2009–2017 2013-2017 Chairwoman of "Gesprächsforschung e.V.", 04/2009 – 04/2013 Vice Chairwoman
- 2011 to current Conceptionalization and member of the doctoral program *Kommunikative Konstruktion von Wissen* (Communicative Construction of Knowledge), Departments IV and V, University of Bayreuth [link](#)
- 10/10 to current Co-editor of the pre-publication series INLIST <http://www.inlist.uni-bayreuth.de> (with Peter Auer, Susanne Günthner, Margret Selting, Elisabeth Couper-Kuhlen, Arnulf Deppermann)
- 11/2007 Scientist Exchange with the Charles University in Prague within the partnership program of University of Freiburg

Recent & Relevant Publications (selection)

- 2025 (with Ehmer, Oliver) *There are people who ... Existential-attributive constructions and positioning in Spoken Spanish* .In: Open Linguistics Bd. 11. [open access](#)
- 2024 (with Groß, Alexandra) *Formen der sprachlich-interaktiven Bezugnahme auf NORMAL und ihre Funktionen in psychosomatischen Therapiegesprächen und neurologischen Telekonsultationen* (Linguistic-interactive forms of reference to „normal“ and its functions in psychosomatic therapy sessions and neurological telemedical consultation). In: Bauer, Nathalie; Günthner, Susanne; Schopf, Juliane (eds.): *Die kommunikative Konstruktion von Normalitäten in der Medizin: Gesprächsanalytische Perspektiven*. Berlin: de Gruyter, 23-47.
- 2024 *Partizipationsstrukturen in telemedizinischen Konsilen* (Participation structure in telemedical consiles). In: Osnabrücker Beiträge zur Sprachtheorie, Bd. 102, 117-141. [open access](#)
- 2023 (with Dix, Carolin) *Linguistische Gattungsanalyse am Beispiel des Predigtgebets (Linguistic Analysis of Genres: Prayers in Sermons*. In: Knoblauch, Hubert; Singh, Ajit (eds.) *Kommunikative Gattungen und Events: Zur empirischen Analyse realweltlicher sozialer Situationen in der Kommunikationsgesellschaft*, Wiesbaden: Springer VS, 53-75.
- 2022 (with Hufeisen, Britta; Rosenberg, Peter) (eds.) *Spracharbeit mit Geflüchteten: Empirische Studien zum Deutscherwerb von Neuzugewanderten* (Language work with refugees. Studies on the Acquisition of German by Recent Immigrants, Berlin: Peter Lang. [open access](#)

- 2020 (with Auer, Peter; Bauer, Angelika; Kotthoff, Helga) *Einführung in die Konversationsanalyse* (Introduction to Conversation Analysis). Berlin: de Gruyter.
- 2019 (with Janich, Nina) (eds.) *Handbuch Text und Gespräch* (Handbook Text and Dialog). Berlin et al.: De Gruyter.
- 2017 *Erzählen im Arzt/Patient-Gespräch* (Narratives in Doctor/Patient-Consultations). In: Martin Huber; Schmid, Wolf (eds.) *Grundthemen der Literaturwissenschaft: Erzählen*. Berlin: De Gruyter, 547-566.
- 2016 (with Burbaum, Christina) *Nichtwissen als interaktive Ressource in Therapiegesprächen* (Non-knowledge as an Interactive Ressource during Therapy Sessions). In: Groß, Alexandra; Harren, Inga (eds.) *Wissen in institutioneller Interaktion*. Frankfurt am Main: Peter Lang, 83-112.
- 2015 *Wiedererzählte Krankheitsnarrative im Vergleich: Zwischen Variabilität und Geronnenheit* (Retold Illness Narratives in Comparison: Between Variability and Fixation). In: Schumann, Elke; Gülich, Elisabeth; Lucius-Hoene, Gabriele; Pfänder, Stefan (eds.) *Wiedererzählen: Formen und Funktionen einer kulturellen Praxis*. Bielefeld: transcript, 269-294.
- 2015 (with Vlassenko, Ivan) *Subjektive Theorien zu Krankheit und Gesundheit* (Subjective Theories on Illness and Health). In: Busch, Albert; Spranz-Fogasy, Thomas (eds.) *Handbuch Sprache in der Medizin*. Berlin u.a.: de Gruyter, 135-153.
- 2013 *Erzählfragmente: narrative Funktionalisierungen zur Lösung der schweren Beschreibbarkeit von Schmerzempfindungen* (Narrative Fragments: Narrative Functionalization as a Solution to the Difficulties in Describing Sensations of Pain). In: Hartung, Martin; Deppermann, Arnulf (eds.) *Gesprochenes und Geschriebenes im Wandel der Zeit: Festschrift für Johannes Schwitalla*. Mannheim: Verlag für Gesprächsforschung, 82-98. [open access](#)
- 2013 (with Burbaum, Christina) *Suchbewegungen im Therapiegespräch: Formen der interaktiven Bearbeitung von Kausalattributionen* (Exploratory Movements in the Therapeutic Session. Procedures of Interactive Causal Attribution Processing). In: *Interaction and Linguistic Studies* 53, 1-56. [open access](#)
- 2013 (with Ehmer, Oliver) *Veranschaulichungsverfahren* (Methods of Verbal Illustration). Mannheim: Verlag für Gesprächsforschung. [open access](#)
- 2011b (with Stukenbrock, Anja) *Multimodale Ressourcen für Stadtführungen* (Multimodal Ressources for City Tours). In: Costa, Marcella; Müller-Jacquier, Bernd (eds.) *Deutschland als fremde Kultur: Vermittlungsverfahren in Touristenführungen*. iudicum, München, 214-243.

- 2011 *Multimodal Laughing: Comments on Cecilia Ford and Barbara Fox 'Multiple Practices for Constructing Laughables'*. In: Barth-Weingarten, Dagmar; Reber, Elisabeth; Selting, Margret (eds.) *Prosody in Interaction*. Amsterdam/Philadelphia: Benjamins, 369-372.
- 2011 (with Meer, Dorothee) *Kommunikative Verfahren und institutionalisierter Alltag: Mündlichkeit und Schriftlichkeit in unterschiedlichen gesellschaftlichen Praxisbereichen* (Communicative Procedures and Institutionalized Daily Routines). Mannheim: Verlag für Gesprächsforschung. [open access](#)
- 2009 (with Stukenbrock, Anja) *Arbeit mit Transkripten in der Praxis: Forschung, Lehre und Fortbildung* (Working with Transcripts in Practice: Research, Teaching and Advanced Education). Mannheim: Verlag für Gesprächsforschung. [open access](#)
- 2009 (with Auer, Peter; Selting, Margret, et al.) *Gesprächsanalytisches Transkriptionssystem 2 (GAT 2)* (A System for Transcribing Talk-in-Interaction). In: *Online-Zeitschrift zur verbalen Interaktion* 10, 223-272. [open access](#)
- 2006 *Subjektive Krankheitstheorien im Gespräch* (Subjective Illness Theories in Conversation). In: *Gesprächsforschung – Online-Zeitschrift zur verbalen Interaktion* 7, 152-183. www.gespraechsforschung-ozs.de [open access](#)
- 2004 (with Kreissl, Marion E.; Overlach, Fabian; Türp, Jens C.) *Das zahnärztliche Erstgespräch bei Patientinnen mit chronischen Gesichtsschmerzen* (First Visits at the Dentist with Patients Suffering from Chronic Facial Pain). In: *Schmerz* 18/4, 266-289.
- 2001 *Ost- und Westdeutsche im Bewerbungsgespräch. Eine kommunikative Gattung in Zeiten gesellschaftlichen Wandels* (East and West Germans in Job interviews. A Communicative Genre in Times of Social Change). Tübingen: Niemeyer.