

Phonetics Colloquium at UdS  
on Wednesday, 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025, 14:15  
online  
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**SAMVAD: Speech Across Multilingual Voices of Arrivals and Descendants: Linguistic Analysis and Multimodal Speech Corpus of Indian Immigrants in Germany**

This talk will be delivered in two parts. First, I will present a brief overview of my PhD and outline how its findings inform the proposed research. My PhD examined the forensic value of within-formant spectral measurements using speech from 45 Marwari speakers across three caste sociolect and three speech styles. The study demonstrated that spectral moments and formant-related features significantly enhance speaker discrimination, offering additional feature-based support for manual forensic casework.

In the second part, I will introduce SAMVAD, a project investigating multilingual speech, language change, and intergenerational dynamics among Indian immigrants in Germany. Focusing on German (host language), English (global lingua franca), and six Indian heritage languages from the Indo-Aryan and Dravidian families, the project addresses key gaps in migration linguistics, including the linguistic trajectories of dependent migrants (people who arrive with skilled workers) and the limited representation of South Asian languages in European multilingualism research. SAMVAD aims to build a multimodal trilingual corpus of 72 speakers (Six languages \* across two generations), comprising around 540 recordings of scripted, semi-spontaneous, and spontaneous speech, complemented with detailed sociolinguistic metadata. Through acoustic-phonetic analysis, syntactic complexity measures, as well as statistical modelling, the project will quantify contact-induced language change, document maintenance and attrition patterns. It will also examine phonological, lexical, and syntactic shifts across generations.

By combining sociophonetics, corpus linguistics, and forensic phonetics, SAMVAD will contribute to the development of a bidirectional accent recognition toolkit with potential forensic applications. Overall, the project will enhance our understanding of European multilingualism by documenting a rapidly growing yet underexplored community and reveal how multilingual contact shapes language across generations.