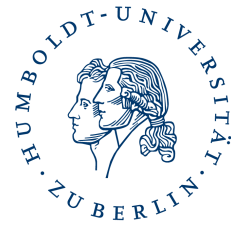


HUMBOLDT-UNIVERSITÄT ZU BERLIN



Die Abteilung Deaf Studies und Gebärdensprachdolmetschen am  
Institut für Rehabilitationswissenschaften lädt herzlich zum  
Gastvortrag ein:

**Dr. Robert Adam**

**Heriot-Watt University, Edinburgh**



## **„Sign Language diasporas“**

Donnerstag, den 09. Februar 2023, 16:15 -17:45 Uhr

Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, **Hörsaal 1070**,  
Hauptgebäude, Unter den Linden 6, Berlin

Sprachen: International Sign Language und Deutsch

DGS-Zusammenfassung:

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Qed9X9zIZG8>**

## **Abstract**

This lecture will look at the journeys of Irish Sign Language and British Sign Language around the world as a result of colonisation and conquest. Even though deaf communities around the world continue to struggle with equal access in society, it is of interest that sign languages have also become colonising languages. These languages have dislodged local indigenous sign languages with the arrival of missionaries, teachers, development workers or white settlers who travelled to different parts of the world and imported sign languages.

In the case of British Sign Language in Australia, it has grown to become the predominant sign language (Johnston & Schembri, 2007) even though there are indigenous Australian sign languages (Power, 2013) and it has also dislodged another imported sign language, Australian Irish Sign Language (Adam, 2016) but in the case of Maritime Sign Language in Canada (Buchanan, 2021), American Sign Language has become the predominant sign language, and not BSL. ISL which was brought to Australia after BSL also has an interesting history. The trajectory of some ISL signs will be narrated, with examples from other sign languages, which also raises questions about sign language naming practices.

## **References:**

- Adam, Robert. (2016). *Unimodal bilingualism in the Deaf community: Language contact between two sign languages in Australia and the United Kingdom*. (PhD), University College London, London.
- Buchanan, Beverly. (2021). *Preservation of Maritime Sign Language: An Endangered Language of Canada*. (PhD), Lamar University, USA.
- Johnston, Trevor, & Schembri, Adam. (2007). *Australian Sign Language (Auslan): An introduction to sign language linguistics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Power, Desmond J. (2013). Australian Aboriginal Deaf People and Aboriginal Sign Language. *Sign Language Studies*, 13(2), 264-277.