Variationist Linguistics meets Citizen Science

CHALLENGES
It is an open project that relies on the contributions of the general public. Motivating citizens, increasing their commitment, providing support and data infrastructure are major challenges.

CONTENT
We encourage the general public to reflect on their use of and attitudes towards German language in Austria, including language variation, language varieties and language contact phenomena. Thereby we address written and spoken forms of German varieties in Austria.

CHANCES
We can address societal concerns, raise awareness for basic research in the humanities and test an "extreme citizen science" approach in linguistics – additionally we are gathering language data.

COMMUNICATION
... includes exchange on our website, research platform and social media. We raise questions of the month, promote a Lingscape scavenger hunt, a dialectal meme contest and organise an outreach event.

CITIZENS (SCIENCE)
Citizens conduct research on their own. We help them to find a research question, analyse and interpret data and publish their results, so they can participate in the whole research process.

COMMUNITY
The contributions of our community are crucial. We target students (in our pilot phase), Austrian associations concentrating on dialects, German language teachers and, finally, the general public.

On everyone’s mind and lips – German in Austria

BARBARA HEINISCH / MELANIE SELTMANN / LUDWIG M. BREUER