Abstract:

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New degrees focusing on language technology and on empirical linguistics

An outline will be attempted of current orientations and potential further developments in translation-oriented teaching and research in Saarbrücken.

Translation degrees at our university have undergone significant developments and changes over the past couple of years. Yet beyond developments in our own university, required competencies and qualifications in the professional fields of multilingual communication and translation outside academia have changed substantially. Further sources of change and development for the design of university-based translation teaching are the research-intensive communities of empirical linguistics, machine translation and adjacent areas.

The field of translation studies itself has undergone a long process of internal differentiation: thematic and methodological contact disciplines range from literary and semiotic studies through linguistics to language technology. This wide range presents challenges to traditional notions of a unified academic discipline. At the same time teaching and research institutions are aiming at clearly identifiable, differentiated and attractive profiles both within academic communities and vis-a-vis language industries.

In our talk, an overview will be given of our translation-oriented degrees which have been in place since 2016. They have been created in response to developments in the professional market, but also and specifically taking on board recent developments in the worlds of language technology and empirical linguistics. We are also hoping to get a better view of what is going on in sister institutions through interacting with the other participants in the colloquium.