

Prof. Dr. Walter Bisang

Deputy SoCuM Spokesperson

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Research Interests

Comparative Linguistic Theory; Grammaticalization; Linguistic Contact, Systems of Classification of Grammatical Systems, particularly Numeral Classification; Verbalization; Argumentation; Semantic / Syntactical Interfacing, East and South-East Asian languages

Academic Background

Walter Bisang has been Professor of General and Comparative Linguistics at the Johannes Gutenberg University of Mainz since 1992 and researches worldwide structural variety in human language. From 1999 to 2008, he was Spokesperson for the Special Research Branch 295 'Kulturelle und Sprachliche Kontakte' (Cultural and Linguistic Contact') and since 2009 he has been Spokesperson for SoCuM. Walter Bisang was Guest Professor in Bangkok (Chulaalongkorn University), Ile Ife (Nigeria), Melbourne (La Trobe University) and Paris (CRLAO). From 1996 to 2010, he released the series 'Trends in Linguistics' with H.H. Hock and W. Winter, published by Mouton de Gruyter. Walter Bisang is on the SFB-Grant committee of the DFG.

April/May 2015: Visiting Professor at Zhejiang University, School of Humanities, Center for the Study of Language and Cognition (Hangzhou)

April/May 2012 Visiting Professor at the School of Humanities (Linguistics), University of Hong Kong

May 2008: Visiting professor at the Centre de recherches linguistiques sur l'asie orientale (CRLAO, EHESS: École des hautes études et sciences sociales, Paris)

June 1999 - 2008: Coordinator of the Collaborative Research Center "Cultural and Linguistic Contacts" (SFB 295 „Kulturelle und sprachliche Kontakte“), funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG)

Since 10/1992: Full professor (C4) of General and Comparative Linguistics in Mainz (Germany)

1978 - 1986: 1978-1986 Studies in General Linguistics (Major), Chinese Language & Literature (Minor), Georgian (Minor) at the University of Zürich, Switzerland.

Board memberships of research foundations and editorial boards

2013 - 2018: Member of the Senate Committee on Collaborative Research Centres of the German Research Foundation (DFG)

2004 - 2011: Member of the Review Board for Linguistics of the German Research Foundation (DFG-Fachkollegium 104 "Sprachwissenschaften")

2007 - 2010: Editor-in-Chief (Federführender Redaktor) of "Zeitschrift für Sprachwissenschaft"

1996 - 2009: Editor-in-Chief of Trends in Linguistics (together with W. Winter and H. H. Hock)

Publications (Top 5)

2012 (with Xuping Li:) Classifiers in Sinitic languages: From individuation to definiteness-marking. In: *Lingua* 122. P. 335-355.

2011 Grammaticalization and typology. In: Heiko Narrog, Bernd Heine (eds.): *Handbook of grammaticalization*. Oxford: Oxford University Press. P. 105-117.

2011 (with Matthias Gerner:) Social deixis classifiers in Weining Ahmao. In: Jan Wohlgemuth and Michael Cysouw (eds.): *Rara & Rarissima: Documenting the fringes of linguistic diversity*, (EALT, Empirical approaches to linguistic typology, 46). Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. P. 75-94.

2010 Areal language typology. In: Peter Auer and Jürgen E. Schmidt (eds.): *Language and space. An international handbook of linguistic variation*. Vol. 1: Theories and methods. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter. P. 419-440.

2007 Some general thoughts about linguistic typology and dialogue linguistics. In: Marion Grein and Edda Weigand (eds.): *Dialogue and culture*. Amsterdam and Philadelphia: John Benjamins. P. 53-72.