

**Language acquisition and regional variation:  
Towards unravelling the nature of early representations in ‘dialectal’ children**

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Children who grow up in dialectal regions are typically exposed to a regional variety in addition to the Standard. For instance, children in the Alemannic dialect area most often encounter both Standard and dialectal word forms in their input (e.g., [fu:s] and [fuəs] for *Fuß* ‘foot’). Little is known on the nature of early lexical representations in these ‘dialectal’ children, e.g., whether both the Standard and the dialectal word form is stored, or whether representations are underspecified. In this talk, I will present a study on the early word recognition abilities in a) German 12- to 18-month-olds with Standard German input and b) German 12- to 18-month-olds with dialectal and Standard German input. Data was collected remotely via an App, offering easy access to a larger, more diverse group of participants than the typical child participant tested in the lab. Our findings suggest more mature word form processing in ‘dialectal’ children as compared to their ‘Standard’ peers. I will discuss the implications of these findings for early lexical representations, and, from a methodological perspective, highlight the opportunities and challenges that come along with remote testing.