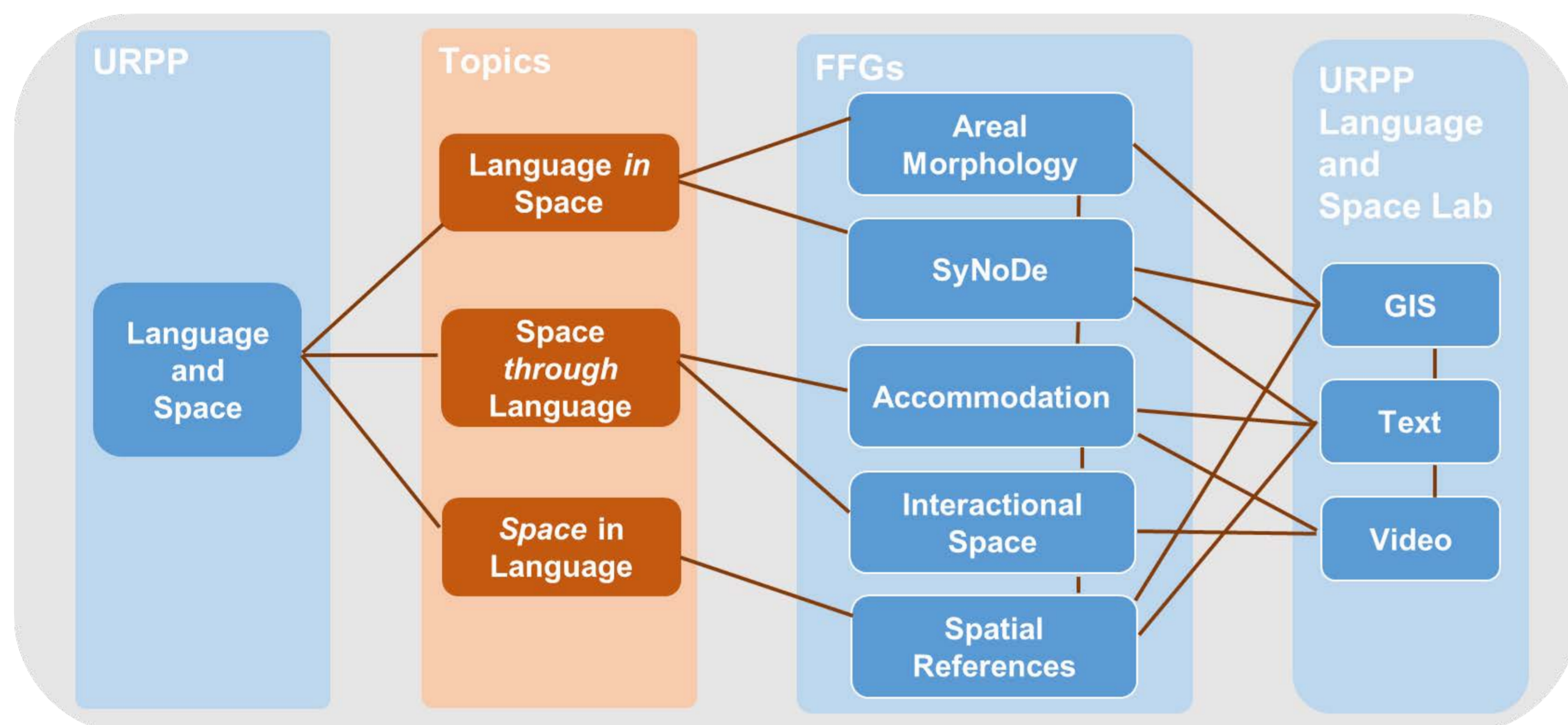**University of Zurich** UZH

University Research Priority Program
Language and Space

The URPP Language and Space is dedicated to research on the fundamental connection of language and space on the basis of three key research topics:
(1) *Language **in** Space*,
(2) *Space **through** Language*
(3) ***Space** in Language*

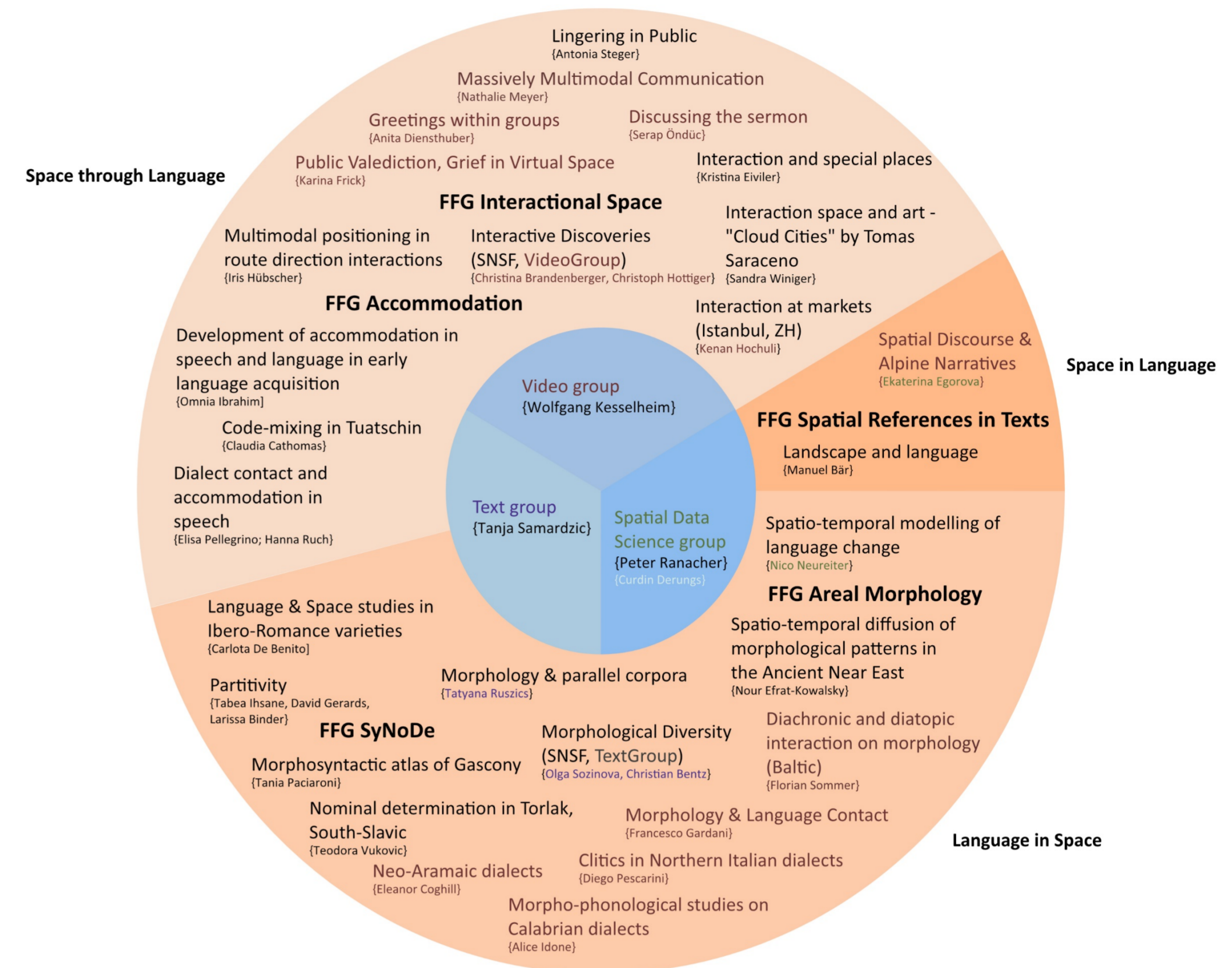## Research topics and research groups

The topic **Language in Space** regroups the traditional disciplines of dialectology and areal typology in a comparative perspective. Research in these areas encompasses the study of the spread of linguistic features across geographical areas of different scales. Within the URPP Language and Space, research of Language in Space is pursued within the Research Group Areal Morphology (at a global scale), and in the Research Group Systems of Nominal Determination in Contact (SyNoDe) (at the dialectal scale). The establishment of linguistic areas is based on the variety of linguistic features that enable a spatial distribution of speakers according to their speech patterns (dialects, accents, etc.) and, thus, identification and distinction.

The topic **Space through Language** is devoted to the verbal (and nonverbal) communication of spatial features and spatiality in general within individual discourse, tracing space back to the manifold ways in which it comes to be perceived among those being present in a face-to-face encounter. Research in the Research Group Accommodation and Social Categorization is concerned with the general phenomenon that individuals tend to adjust and fine-tune their communicative behavior according to what they perceive. The Research Group Interactional Spaces is concerned with spatial aspects of the communicative situation, the complex and spatially creative interplay of language, perception, movement and action.
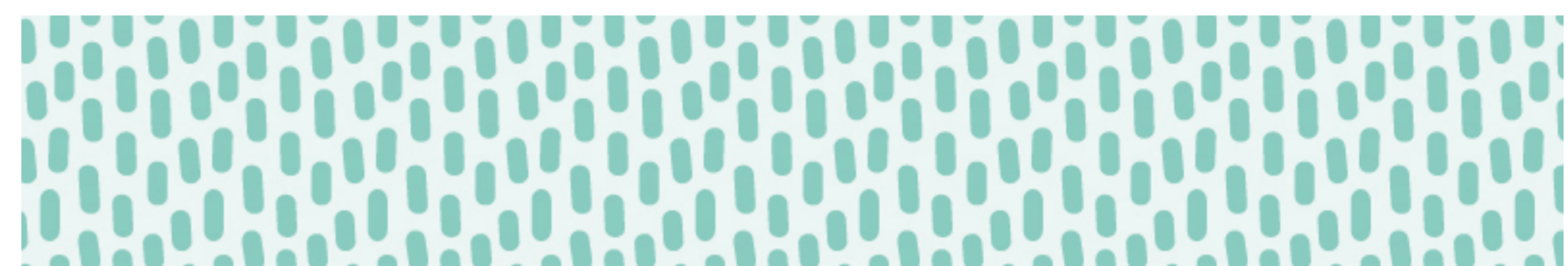
The third topic **Space in Language** focuses on the manifestation of spatial features and spatiality in general in the lexicon and in the grammar of natural languages. Research on this topic is carried out within the Research Group Spatial References, and, partly, within the Research Group Interactional Spaces. Linguists and geographers interact here in order to understand how people talk about space and what this may tell us about their spatial conceptualizations.

Leadership and management
Directors:
8/2019 - : Prof Elisabeth Stark & Prof Robert Weibel
8/2018 – 7/2019: Prof Heiko Hausendorf & Prof Elisabeth Stark
1/2013 – 7/2018: Prof Elvira Glaser & Prof Heiko Hausendorf
Research management: Dr Agnes Kolmer

Building sustainable structures

Linguistic Research Infrastructure at UZH

The Language and Space Lab is the URPP's research infrastructure
The Language and Space Lab with its three groups *Text*, *Spatial Data Science* and *Video* is the core unit of the URPP Language and Space. The Lab is engaged in advancing laboratory-style, interdisciplinary approach to the study of language. Research and services in the Lab focus on how language is shaped by the space in which it is used, from individual interactions to global geographical patterns.
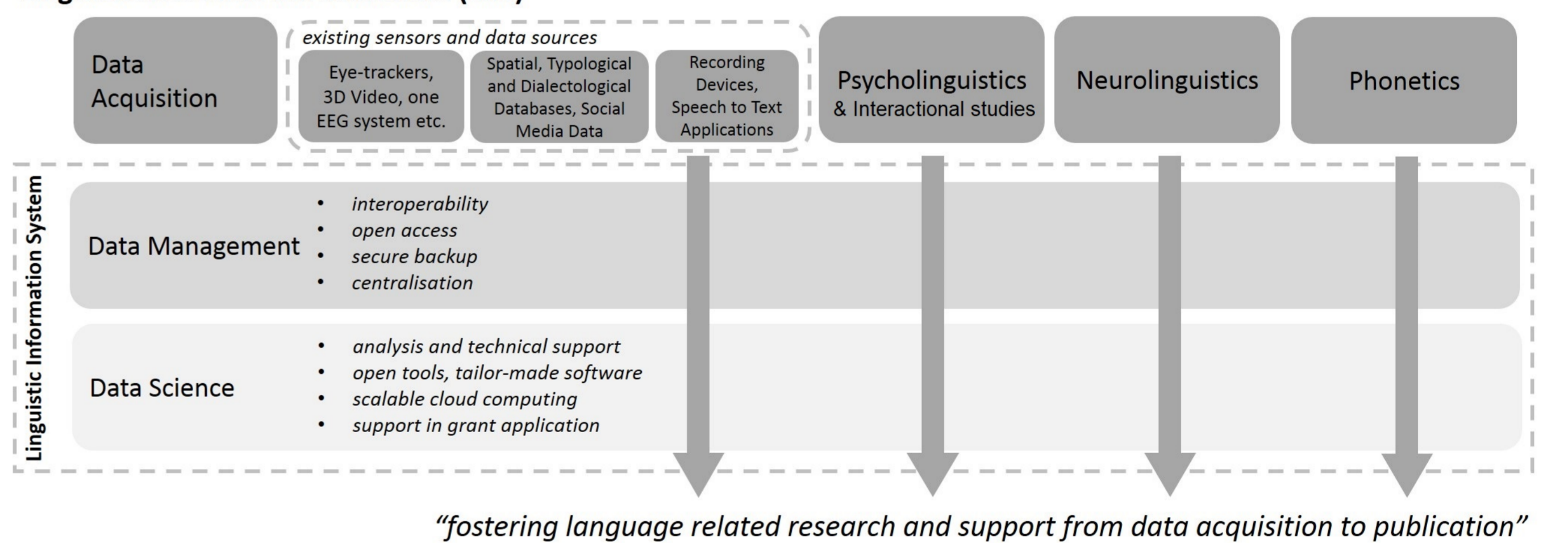The Language and Space Lab is also engaged in teaching.

2019: Linguistics training program: Theory, logic, methodology
Funded by MOVETIA foundation.

LiRI – Linguistic Research Infrastructure at UZH:
Part of the 2019 Swiss Roadmap for Research Infrastructures
Project leader: Prof Elisabeth Stark, project start: 7/2020

"fostering language related research and support from data acquisition to publication"

Linguistic education at UZH

Master of Arts in Linguistics starts in fall semester 2019
Focus areas: Romance Linguistics, Slavic Linguistics, English Linguistics, Indo-European Linguistics, Digital Linguistics, Descriptive Linguistics, Psycholinguistics, Phonetics and Speech Sciences, Language – Interaction – Society, Linguistics (i.e. no specified focus area)

* Term abroad in the 3rd semester possible

PhD program Linguistics, as part of the Graduate School at the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences UZH
Executive Board: Prof Barbara Sonnenhauser (program director), Prof Balthasar Bickel, Prof Heiko Hausendorf, Prof Elisabeth Stark, Prof Olga Timofeeva, MA Christina Brandenberger (doctoral students representative), Dr Sascha Völlmin (coordinator)

Linguistic network at UZH

Zurich Center for Linguistics (ZüKL), president: Prof Volker Dellwo
In preparation: Linguistics Center Zurich (LiZZ)