How we address each other is a crucial element to building and maintaining interpersonal relationships in conversation. Through choice of address terms – for example pronouns, first names, last names, and titles – interlocutors regulate the level of social distance between each other. Address and naming practices show variation not only across contexts but also within and across cultures and languages. Speakers of the same pluricentric language may share the linguistic resources for address, but the actual practice may vary across different (national) varieties of the same language.

Examples of variation in pronominal address across pluricentric languages would be the voseo in several American varieties of Spanish compared to Peninsular Spanish and the different use of você in Brazilian vs. European Portuguese. Examples for respective variation in nominal address are the different roles vocatives such as sir/madam or courtesy titles such as Ms (vs Miss/Mrs) play across different national varieties of English.

As part of the conference Languages, Nations, Cultures: Pluricentric Languages in Context(s) Leo Kretzenbacher, John Hajek and Doris Schüpbach from the University of Melbourne will organise a thematic workshop on address in pluricentric languages. We invite contributions (20 mins + discussion) from a broad range of theoretical and methodological perspectives and settings, covering any pluricentric language(s).

Abstracts of no more than 300 words (incl. references) should be sent to Leo Kretzenbacher heinz@unimelb.edu.au by 15 October 2018. Notification of acceptance will be given by 15 January 2019.

For more information about the conference please visit the website https://www.su.se/svefler/ivip/evenemang-och-media-conferences-and-media/languages-nations-cultures.