



Universität Hamburg

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PRESS RELEASE

Universität Hamburg

Department of Communication and Marketing

Media and Public Relations Section

Tel: +49 40 42838-2968

medien@uni-hamburg.de

13 June 2024

30/24

ESTABLISHING THE PROFILE INITIATIVE LINGUISTIC DIVERSITY

NEW ALEXANDER VON HUMBOLDT PROFESSORSHIP AT UNIVERSITÄT HAMBURG

Universität Hamburg has been granted an Alexander von Humboldt Professorship. The prestigious research prize in the amount of €3.5 million is being awarded to the sociolinguist Prof. Dr. Ingrid Piller. The professor of applied linguistics at Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia will head the research center Literacy in Diversity Settings (LiDS).

Based in the Faculty of Education, LiDS is set to become an interdisciplinary, cross-faculty research center and form the nucleus of the profile initiative Linguistic Diversity at Universität Hamburg.

Piller's research focuses on intercultural communication, language acquisition, and multilingualism in the context of migration and globalization. She is currently a distinguished professor at Macquarie University, a distinction awarded to researchers who are deemed among the top experts in their field. In 2018, she received the Anneliese Maier Research Award worth €250,000 from the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation and has already completed several research stays and served as visiting professor at Universität Hamburg.

“As Universität Hamburg—University of Excellence, we have successfully appointed an outstanding scholar in the person of Prof. Ingrid Piller,” said the University's president, Prof. Dr. Hauke Heekeren. “The Alexander von Humboldt Professorship is one of the most prestigious distinctions in German academia. In her research, she has continuously developed new methodological approaches



and contributed to paradigm shifts in the field of multilingualism. Along with her team, Ingrid Piller will enrich our profile initiative Linguistic Diversity with new international dimensions.”

The Alexander von Humboldt Professorships are granted by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation. These professorships recognize leading world researchers in all disciplines who are working abroad and who are nominated by the respective universities. The award also gives the universities themselves an opportunity to offer international experts competitive conditions and long-term prospects for their work in Germany as well as to sharpen their profiles. Piller’s appointment means that Universität Hamburg now has a total of 4 Alexander von Humboldt Professorships. Learn more about Piller’s research on the portal for sociolinguistics she set up (in English): [Language on the Move](#)

Queries:

Alexander Lemonakis
Universität Hamburg
Press officer for the president
Tel: +49 40 42838-1809
alexander.lemonakis@uni-hamburg.de

