

## Field for Dissertations

*Linguistic and communicative skills are key competencies in an individual's disposition to make use of the offerings institutions might provide. Thus, they play a special role among a person's capabilities, providing a necessary, if not sufficient, condition for using resources to acquire skills in domains specific to the particular goals the individual wants to achieve. Moreover, they play a key role in the individual's capacity to develop personal goals in the first place—goals in the sense of functioning within society (although reading skills are particularly relevant here, the [degree of] access to a second or foreign language may also play a decisive role).*

### **Linguistic mechanisms of inclusion and exclusion in teaching**

Possibly using and extending the data of the RS's longitudinal study, dissertation projects in this field should reconstruct students' oral and written linguistic practices in class and teachers' way of appreciating or refusing these practices as well as the effects of these interactive patterns on the acquisition of linguistic skills in pupils. Relevant teacher activities do not only include explicit meta-communication or correction in classroom-interaction or in dealing with written texts, but also more implicit procedures such as re-formulating students' utterances or not taking them up at all. Hidden linguistic norms, which govern teachers' professional behaviour, should be revealed. Longitudinally, studies could show to what extent and in which way pupils' further acquisition of linguistic abilities depend on the kind of feed back habitually received from their teacher(s). The central aim of projects in this field lies in the reconstruction of the mechanisms of accepting and fostering on the one hand or refusing and discouraging pupils linguistically on the other hand, thus focussing on the individual / educational organization-interface. Qualitative data could be collected in Germany and/or in the student's home country, focussing on specific or contrastive analyses.