**Possible topics BA/MA-dissertations supervised by Sara Pacchiarotti**

**Language documentation and description**

• **Documentation and description of the phonology (including and/or focusing on suprasegmentals) and/or morphosyntax of any non-described of poorly described African language**, especially languagesbelonging to the **Niger-Congo phylum and/or endangered languages**. Possible target languages are Bantu and/or Ubangi languages spoken in northwestern DRC, Southwestern CAR and northeastern Republic of the Congo. For some of these languages, unexploited data might already be available at the department. Research on any other African language for which oral data samples can be collected through fieldwork in Africa and/or in the African diaspora is also most welcome.

• **In-depth and functionally/typology-oriented study of a specific grammatical aspect of any better-documented and better-described African language**, especially languagesbelonging to the Niger-Congo language family. Possible topics: transitivity, voice, verbal derivation, applicative morphology, grammatical tone, noun class systems.

**Historical-comparative linguistics**

• The **historical-comparative study of the lexicon, phonology, morphology and/or syntax** of any genealogical cluster of African languages, but preferably Bantu/Ubangi languages, for which comparative data are already available or for which new comparative data need to be collected through fieldwork.

• Especially welcome are comparative studies on Central Western Bantu languages(Guthrie’s groups C and D) as part of the historical linguistic research of the ERC-SG CongUbangi project.

• **Historical-comparative approaches to prehistoric language contact**, especially interactions between migrating Bantu speakers and autochthonous foragers in Central Africa.

• **Historical-comparative study of vocabulary belonging to specific semantic domains**, such as subsistence-related vocabulary, material culture vocabulary, animals, wild plants, and crops, possibly in conjunction with a **Words-and-Things** approach in order to reconstruct African history from language data. Of particular interest is the issue of the linguistic stratigraphy in the Congo-Ubangi watershed in northwestern DRC.