Announcement

Two Werkverträge: Digital Linguistic Atlas of Scotland

The research team undertaking the digitisation of the Linguistic Atlas of Scotland is looking for up to three student research assistants with general linguistic knowledge and an interest in digital resources to work with them on the atlas’s database during the coming summer. No special technical knowledge is required, only an open mind for work with digitized data and their format and methods. The atlas lists and maps the vocabulary for words from traditional domestic life, parts of the body, agricultural farming, livestock farming, insects, the weather, children’s games, and such like concepts.

The Tasks

Task 1: The first task is concerned with the localities from which the data were collected. The 33 county names and 1072 places at which the data were collected and details of the 1996 informants were inputted from the original printed atlas (see Anhang 1) into a database via OCR. The original names of the 1072 places as well as the birth places of respondents’ parents were rationalised and corrected and stored in 33 county Excel files. The main task is to identify these corrected names – three sets of 1072 names – by their WGS84-x-y-coordinates. You’ll work on an interactive map and insert the automatically retrieved coordinates into the special Mapping Tool is being developed for this purpose (see Anhang 2). For places which couldn’t be identified automatically, you may have to research the coordinates manually (but some advice will be given). As some places have multiple informants, there will be some work in connection with informant names.

Task 2: The second task is concerned with the data which the atlas makes available. The raw answer data for 170 maps have been inputted from the printed atlas (see Anhang 3) into a database via OCR (see Anhang 4). The main task is to check these original data and, where necessary to correct any mistakes. Most mistakes seem to be scanning errors, but there may be other reasons. A special data input tool is being developed for this purpose (see Anhang 5). In a nutshell, all you will have to do is to compare the originally printed version with the digitised version and correct any mistakes. It is essentially a proof-reading task, but one which will require great care.

The Timescale

The work will start with an introduction and training session by the atlas team probably on 15th July 2020. Task 1 may start at any time but preferably as soon as possible thereafter; Task 2 cannot begin before 1 August 2020. If at all possible, both tasks should be completed 31 August 2020.

Remuneration

An applicant must be a registered student at the Universität Wien. Remuneration will be by task.
Task 1: there will be a fixed amount of EUR 1,500.00 (two people could share the task for half the funding each)

Task 2: there will be a fixed amount of EUR 3,000.00 (roughly calculated at EUR 10,00 per page for 281 pages) (two people could share the task for half the funding each; three for a third, etc.)

It is not expected that one person will undertake both tasks.

Applications, in the form of a statement of interest and suitability, together with a brief CV (no more than one page of A4), and indication of task preference, are invited by 18.00 on 8 July 2020, by email to john.kirk@univie.ac.at and to markus.pluschkovits@univie.ac.at.

Informal enquiries by email are welcome.

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