

SWISS ISLANDS IN NORTH AMERICA:

Language Maintenance and Shift amongst Heritage Speakers Past and Present



- **Research Network:** Université de Lausanne (CH)
Universität Salzburg (A)
Queen Mary, University of London (UK)
Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München (D)
- **What do we want to find out?**
 - What is the relationship between Swiss languages/dialects and identity preservation in North America?
 - How are Swiss languages/dialects preserved in North America?
 - When and with whom do people speak Swiss languages/dialects?
 - What happens to a dialect if speakers of different dialects, e.g. Glaarnertütsch, Bärndütsch, etc., speak with one another on a regular basis?
 - What are the migration/family histories of the Swiss in North America?
 - In what other ways are Swiss identities preserved?
 - What connections do Swiss heritage speakers have to the homeland?
 - How does the present situation differ from the past, e.g. letter writing versus skype and facebook?
 - Language in use changes ... and this is the case in Switzerland – can we also observe changes in the use of Swiss languages/dialects in North America?
- **Do you want to work with us?**
 - Details about the project and updates can be found here: wp.unil.ch/SINA
 - You can also contact us via the project website:
<http://wp.unil.ch/sina/contact/>