

# 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/>**