

**Sociophonetics: The creative use of the multiethnolect in German rap**

Daniel Duran

**Abstract**

Spoken language is more than just communicating propositional meaning using conventionalized, yet arbitrary symbols. The form itself conveys a wealth of social meaning. Sociophonetics studies the ways in which speakers encode – not necessarily consciously – their individual identities, social groups and their social standing in relation to their interlocutors, and how listeners decode these information. This course will give a gentle introduction to sociophonetics. We will review findings on the various ways how fine phonetic detail is affected by social variables like gender, sexual orientation, age, education or ethnicity. We will review the phonetics of multiethnolectal speaking styles, i.e. speech as produced by younger speakers in multi-ethnic urban neighbourhoods across Europe signalling social group membership. We will focus in particular on the use of the German multiethnolect, “Kiezdeutsch”, in popular media, comedy and, especially, in German rap as a (potentially) creative form of expression.