

About this book:

Fifteen years after the first cautious proposals to consider the Italian-speaking community of Switzerland as to some degree autonomous in defining a linguistic norm, the pluricentric perspective on the language is now well established. This volume offers numerous insights, with contributions ranging from general and abstract considerations to presentations of studies and detailed analyses of specific linguistic phenomena, however all touching on certain central theoretical or methodological issues. The many issues highlighted cover, among others, the choice of criteria underlying the corpus design for analysing a geographical and political variety, identifying an Italian variety of reference for a contrastive approach to the Swiss variety or the theoretical implications of separating political and linguistic boundaries while observing areas of overlap and interdependence. The contributions essentially revolve around two central defining features of pluricentric languages: "statehood" and the distance between varieties.

The editors:

Laura Baranzini, Matteo Casoni and Sabine Christopher are researchers at the Osservatorio linguistico della Svizzera italiana (OLSI, www.ti.ch/olsi), an institute investigating various aspects of Italian in the multilingual context of Switzerland. Research interests of the institute cover sociolinguistics of Italian in Switzerland, contact phenomena between Italian and dialect and other national languages, language policy and planning, institutional multilingualism, language didactics and selected topics in the areas of semantics and pragmatics. OLSI's research output is published in the book series *// Cannocchiale*. Reflection on pluricentricity has been triggered and developed by some of these publications and associated research projects, such as the *Lessico di frequenza dell'italiano parlato nella Svizzera italiana* (Pandolfi 2009), the Vitality Index of Italian in Switzerland (Casoni, Christopher & Pandolfi 2026) or the project *lidatè - l'italiano dal territorio* www.lidate.ch on geographic variation of Italian between Italy and Switzerland (Baranzini 2020).

