

# Romanisches Seminar and Institut für Vergleichende Sprachwissensschaft



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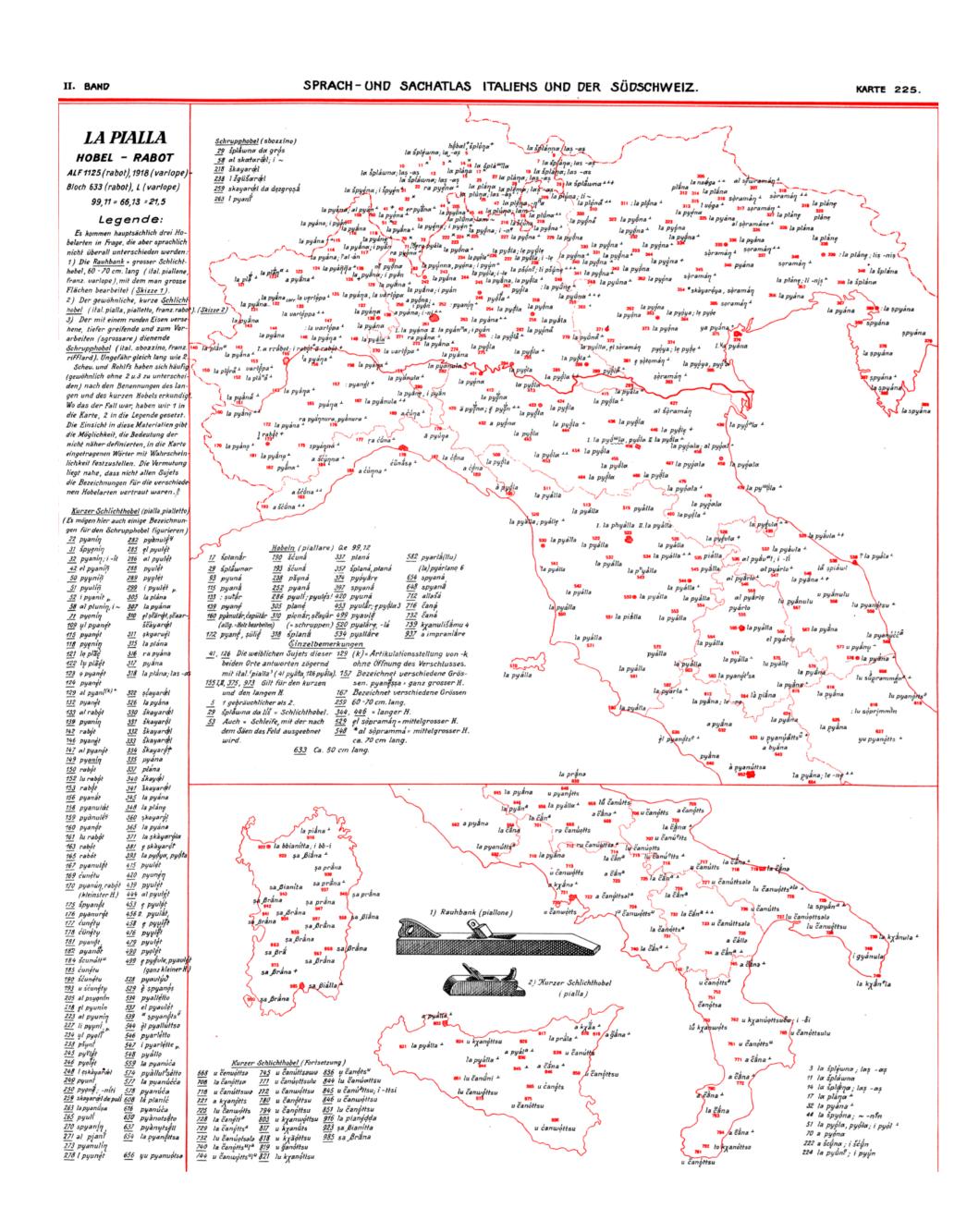
# AIS, reloaded

# Dialectology and digital humanities: fieldwork 100 years later

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# 1. General objective

The main goal of the project 'AIS, reloaded' is to remake a part of the *Sprach- und Sachatlas Italiens und der Südschweiz* (AIS) by using new technologies. The general linguistic objective of the programme is to compare the material contained in the 'AIS' – which provides a fine picture of Italo-Romance and Rhaeto-Romance vernaculars as spoken between 1919 and 1928 – with data on present-day dialects collected in the same locations.



#### 2. Fieldwork and Technology

Firstly, we aim to carry out new fieldwork on 36 data points in Southern Switzerland (18 for Romansh and 18 for Lombard) corresponding to the original points of the inquiry of the AIS. In each locality we use the same questionnaire of 1920s (about 1800 questions), which lasts around 12 hours. Differently from the past, we use innovative technologies to record, film and store the linguistic data. The collection of the data is made by a specific interface and microphone in order to get high-quality records, which will further allow specific linguistic analyses such as phonetic investigation. A video of the entire interview provides ethnological documentations about the language and culture of each community.

Once collected, the data are transcribed in IPA.

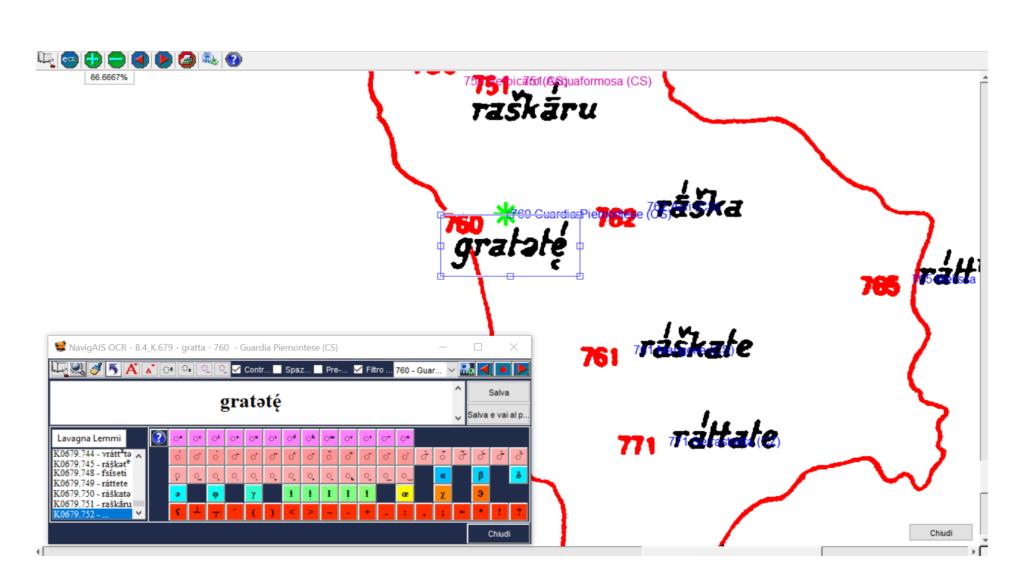
Transcriptions, recordings (both audio and video), and other materials (pictures, annotations, stories, etc.) will be stored in an open access database hosted by the UZH-Phonogrammarchiv.



# 3. Digitalization

This hundred-year old dialectal atlas is totally hand-made, published in 8 volumes and printed between 1928 and 1940 in a really big format – 41 x 53,7 cm, 1:250.00. All the 1705 maps of the 1920s AIS have already been digitally acquired and made available on the internet throught the **NavigAis** project sponsored by the *Istituto di Scienze e Tecnologie della Cognizione* belonging to the Italian *Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche* (CNR). Howerver, by digitalizing maps as images, there are problems under three main respects: usability; scalability and interoperability.

In order to build a querable database, we digitalize the 50% of the original AIS transcriptions by means of a **customized OCR software** (developed by Graziano Tisato at ISTC-CNR in Padua) and successively map them into IPA (the International Phonetical Alphabet) fonts.



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		. Mappa AIS		K0329	K0330	K0331	K0332	K0333	K0334	K0335	K0336	K0337	K0338	K0339	K0340	K0341	K0342	K0343	K0344	K0345	K034
		e in Italiano																			
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68	60	Ala di Stura	143	dįlų̇́ηs	dįmārto	dįmę̃rkı	dįģœ́να	dįvę́ndr	dįsǫ́ndu	dįmę́nǵ	lu dį́	là matį́r	mężdi	dộpu m	┸	fin d an	üna nóy	ćáyrα	fiηa mè	αṣtanǫ́y	ηkwé
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70	62	Montanaro	146	lΰηę <sι< th=""><th>mårtę&lt;</th><th>mę́rko</th><th>ģœ̄vę<s< th=""><th>vənner</th><th>ṣā̇́bå</th><th>düminil</th><th>l dį́</th><th>matίη &lt;</th><th>męzdí</th><th>? αηκφ</th><th>la şéyro</th><th>da yęrş</th><th>na nœć</th><th>ćę̃rα</th><th>fìηa mệ</th><th>αṣtanॡ́t</th><th>αηκφ</th></s<></th></sι<>	mårtę<	mę́rko	ģœ̄vę <s< th=""><th>vənner</th><th>ṣā̇́bå</th><th>düminil</th><th>l dį́</th><th>matίη &lt;</th><th>męzdí</th><th>? αηκφ</th><th>la şéyro</th><th>da yęrş</th><th>na nœć</th><th>ćę̃rα</th><th>fìηa mệ</th><th>αṣtanॡ́t</th><th>αηκφ</th></s<>	vənner	ṣā̇́bå	düminil	l dį́	matίη <	męzdí	? αηκφ	la şéyro	da yęrş	na nœć	ćę̃rα	fìηa mệ	αṣtanॡ́t	αηκφ
71	63	Cavaglià	147	lΰndαṣ	mártαṣ	mę́rkų	ģóbyx	vándrį	ṣấbα°	duminil	l dí	la matir	męzdį́	l üćą́vα	la şéyro	dà yαrṣ	na nộć	ćę̃ra; ćę́	fiηa mệ	ștanóć,	ηkœ́
72	64	Desana	149	lűndαs	mártαs	mę́rk <s< th=""><th>ģóbya&lt;</th><th>vánar</th><th>sā́ba<sī< th=""><th>dumi̇́nil</th><th>l dí</th><th>la matī́r</th><th>dα męz</th><th>dộb diz</th><th>la sę́rα</th><th>ad yers</th><th>nα n¢ć</th><th>ćárα; ća</th><th>fìηa mẹ</th><th>αstanœ</th><th>ηkǽ,</th></sī<></th></s<>	ģóbya<	vánar	sā́ba <sī< th=""><th>dumi̇́nil</th><th>l dí</th><th>la matī́r</th><th>dα męz</th><th>dộb diz</th><th>la sę́rα</th><th>ad yers</th><th>nα n¢ć</th><th>ćárα; ća</th><th>fìηa mẹ</th><th>αstanœ</th><th>ηkǽ,</th></sī<>	dumi̇́nil	l dí	la matī́r	dα męz	dộb diz	la sę́rα	ad yers	nα n¢ć	ćárα; ća	fìηa mẹ	αstanœ	ηkǽ,
73	65	Sauze di Cesana	150	lū́	mårs	mę́ <sup< td=""><td>ģģ</td><td>vॡ́r<su< td=""><td>só<sup< td=""><td>dyamér</td><td>pαr ģ<del>ų</del>r</td><td>måti<su< td=""><td>mēģų̇́&lt;ι</td><td>áprę m</td><td>dα vę́pr</td><td>dù anœ́</td><td>: üm vę́j</td><td>klár</td><td>à<sup></sup></td><td>sē vę́pre</td><td>αηkૡ</td></su<></td></sup<></td></su<></td></sup<>	ģģ	vॡ́r <su< td=""><td>só<sup< td=""><td>dyamér</td><td>pαr ģ<del>ų</del>r</td><td>måti<su< td=""><td>mēģų̇́&lt;ι</td><td>áprę m</td><td>dα vę́pr</td><td>dù anœ́</td><td>: üm vę́j</td><td>klár</td><td>à<sup></sup></td><td>sē vę́pre</td><td>αηkૡ</td></su<></td></sup<></td></su<>	só <sup< td=""><td>dyamér</td><td>pαr ģ<del>ų</del>r</td><td>måti<su< td=""><td>mēģų̇́&lt;ι</td><td>áprę m</td><td>dα vę́pr</td><td>dù anœ́</td><td>: üm vę́j</td><td>klár</td><td>à<sup></sup></td><td>sē vę́pre</td><td>αηkૡ</td></su<></td></sup<>	dyamér	pαr ģ <del>ų</del> r	måti <su< td=""><td>mēģų̇́&lt;ι</td><td>áprę m</td><td>dα vę́pr</td><td>dù anœ́</td><td>: üm vę́j</td><td>klár</td><td>à<sup></sup></td><td>sē vę́pre</td><td>αηkૡ</td></su<>	mēģų̇́<ι	áprę m	dα vę́pr	dù anœ́	: üm vę́j	klár	à <sup></sup>	sē vę́pre	αηkૡ
74	66	Pramollo	152	lΰηş	márș	mę̃rkre	ģģ	νάητε	șánde	dyamér	pαr ģū́a	lù matír	męzgúo	aprè ma	la nœ́yt	dộw an	ünα nœ́	klą̃rα; k	fina mệ	tanœ́yt	ηkœ̈́y
75	67	Giaveno	153	lΰηęṣ	mártęș	mę́rku	ģǫ̇́byα	vάnnä<	ṣấbα	düminil	aw di	la matír	mężdí	aprœ di	ṣḗrα	fina dà	ina nœ́y	ćą́yrα;	fina mệ	ștanœ́yt	aηkæ̈́
76	68	Torino	155	<ol> <li>I. l</li></ol>	I. mártę	I. mę́rk	I. ģǫ́biα	I. vánę<	I. sába	I. dümí	I. l dí	I. la ma	I. męzd	I. dộb d	I. la sấy	I. da yę	I. na nó	I. ćę́yra	I. fiηa n	I. stanó	I. aηk
77	69	Castelnuovo d'Asti	156	lΰηęș	márteș	märku	ģóbya	véne	ṣấba	düminil	aw di	à la mat	męzdi	độp mẹ	la şáyra	da ye	ęnα nœ́	ćáyra;	:fina me	stanœyt	aηkœ́

Duration	2016-2018
Datapoints	36
Collected items	70.000 (approx.)
Digitalized maps	840
Hours of registration	400 (approx.)

### 4. Lines of linguistic research

During the project we develop new lines of research on four main topics based on the data collected during the survey:

- the syntax of subject pronouns and interrogative systems;
- the acoustic of palatal obstruents;
- the make-up of verbal paradigms;
- the rate of the lexical decay.

## **Future prospective**

In conclusion, the aim of this project is twofold: collecting new data in the same localities of the 1920s AIS and digitalizing the AIS maps. The convergence of all these data will provide the creation of a free, querable online database in which data collected in the 1920s will be immediately comparable with the data collected in the last two years. This database will allow to investigate phonetic, morphologic and syntactic data and it will set the stage for further investigations on linguistic topics.

Research team	Michele Loporcaro, PI					
	Stephan Schmid, co-applicant					
	Chiara Zanini, Post-Doc					
	Diego Pescarini, Post-Doc					
	Giulia Donzelli, PhD					
	Stefano Negrinelli, PhD					
Linguistic consultants	Franco Lurà (CDE Bellinzona)					
	Bruno Moretti (University of Bern)					
	Matthias Grünert (University of Freiburg)					
Technical support	Graziano Tisato (ISTC-CNR Padua) for the OCR system					
	UZH video laboratory for recording and video files					
	UZH Phonogram Archives (PAZ) for recording and audio files					

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#### References

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- 2. AIS, reloaded = http://www.rose.uzh.ch/de/forschung/AIS-reloaded.html (accessed on 22.11.2018).
- 3. NavigAIS = http://www3.pd.istc.cnr.it/navigais-web/ (accessed on 22.11.2018)