ALPINE TEXTS AS LANGUAGE DATA
CORPUS- AND DISCOURSE LINGUISTIC EXPLORATIONS

FOCUS SESSION @ INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF INNSBRUCK, AUSTRIA

ORGANIZERS	DATE
Claudia Posch, Gerhard Rampl (University of Innsbruck, Linguistics)	Sep 14, 2025 - Sep 18, 2025
Sven Leuckert (TU Dresden, English Linguistics)	

TOPIC

The discourse domain of mountaineering or alpinism is an underexplored topic in sociolinguistics (and beyond). Yet, it offers rich research potential:

- It is a sports without spectators; achievements are exclusively established via communicative events.
- Mountaineering has grown historically in multilingual and international contexts, resulting in linguistic variation across diachronic and diatopic axes.
- The diversity and abundance of sources, text genres, and media related to mountain sports is remarkable, ranging from conversations, film documentaries, and interviews to biographies and functional texts such as club newsletters, guidebooks, route descriptions, and ascent reports.

This focus session brings together corpus and discourse linguists and researchers from related disciplines to present research based on text datasets about mountains and mountaineering. By revealing trends in language use, we want to trace changing perceptions of mountain landscapes, shifts in mountaineering language and practices, and cultural values associated with alpine exploration. In doing so, the focus session intends to demonstrate how language constructs the social and cultural dimensions of mountains and mountaineering.

💫 **Special Impulse Talk by Rolando Garibotti, Patagonian climber and author**

Held at the International Mountain Conference (University of Innsbruck), this session builds on the 2024 TU Dresden event, Seismic Shifts: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Mountaineering.

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite contributions from all areas of digital humanities, from linguistics, discourse studies, literary and cultural studies, media studies and related disciplines that engage with mountain and mountaineering texts in a way relevant to the overall theme of the session.

We welcome submissions for contributions addressing one or more of the following aspects:

- mountaineering, climbing and cultural memory
- mountaineering, climbing and sociolinguistic variables (gender, age, race, ability, class,…)
- (social) media representations of mountaineering and climbing
- travel writing and mountaineering and climbing
- language variation and multilingualism in mountaineering and climbing
- mountaineering and climbing terminology
- further topics that relate to the conference theme

The deadline for your submission is **Feb 20, 2025**

Please submit your abstract to: https://imc2025.info/my-imc/imc/submission/abstract and select F 3.112 *Alpine Texts as Language Data: Corpus- and Discourse Linguistic Explorations* as Session.

Limits	min. 100 words, max. 350 words or 2500 characters incl. tabs
Criteria	please submit an abstract without references and keywords and use only UTF-8 HTML character set, no equations/special characters/coding; Copy/Paste from an external editor is possible but check/reformat your text before submitting (e.g. bullet points, returns, aso)
Excerpt	also submit a very short (30 words) excerpt from your abstract