# Gender and language in French

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International Research Networking Project
*Language and Gender: Academic Research and Practical Implementation*
Opening Event

## French

- presentation

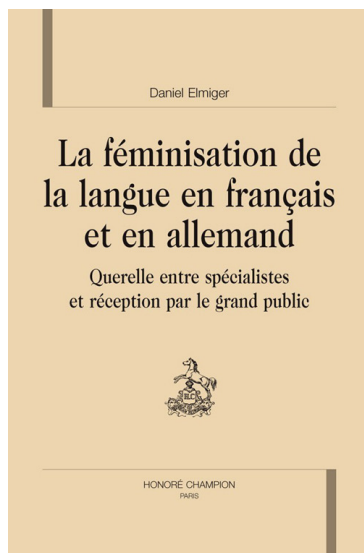- French and its contact with other languages

- my works

# Presentation

- Daniel Elmiger, *professeur associé*, Université de Genève
  - German linguistics and adult educator (*didactique des langues étrangères*)

- research interests:
  - language and gender
  - language policies
  - language learning
  - individual, social and school bilingualism (immersion)
  - Writing, writing systems and spelling
  - corpus linguistics

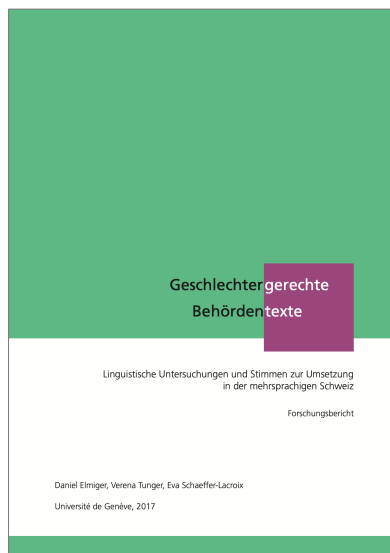# French and its contact with other languages

- French
  - two grammatical genders
  - no neuter gender, but different kinds of neutralisation (formal, semantic)

- language and gender
  - for a long time: a lexical point of view
  - in the peripheral parts of the *francophonie*: discussion about generically intended masculine forms
    - Québec: in contact with English
    - Belgique: in contact with Dutch
    - Switzerland: in contact with German, Italian and Romansh
  - in France: general discussion since 2017: *écriture inclusive*

# My works

## 2008

Daniel Elmiger

La féminisation de la langue en français et en allemand

Querelle entre spécialistes et réception par le grand public

HONORÉ CHAMPION
PARIS

## 2017

Geschlechtergerechte Behördentexte

Linguistische Untersuchungen und Stimmen zur Umsetzung in der mehrsprachigen Schweiz

Forschungsbericht

Daniel Elmiger, Verena Tunger, Eva Schaeffer-Lacroix

Université de Genève, 2017

## ongoing

**Sammlung** / collection
**Leitfäden für geschlechtergerechte / inklusive Sprache**
Guides de langue non sexiste / inclusive
Guidelines for non-sexist / inclusive language
S. 2-8

Sammlung / **Collection**
Leitfäden für geschlechtergerechte / inklusive Sprache
**Guides de langue non sexiste / inclusive**
Guidelines for non-sexist / inclusive language
p. 9-15

Sammlung / **Collection**
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Guides de langue non sexiste / inclusive
**Guidelines for non-sexist / inclusive language**
p. 16-22

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# *Guides de langue non sexiste / inclusive*

- NB: certain texts refer to more than one language

| Romance languages | Germanic languages | Slavic languages | Indo-European languages | Other languages |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Asturian (1) | Afrikaans (1) | Bosnian (1) | Greek (2) | Arab (4) |
| Catalan (100) | Danish (2) | Bulgarian (2) | Irish Gaelic (2) | Basque (17) |
| French (311) | English (299) | Croatian (3) | Latvian (2) | Chinese (1) |
| Galician (26) | Dutch (5) | Czech (10) | Lithuanian (2) | Estonian (2) |
| Italian (89) | German (1013) | Russian (1) | | Finnish (2) |
| Portuguese (44) | Norwegian (1) | Serbian (1) | | Hungarian (2) |
| Rhaeto-Romance (7) | Swedish (2) | Slovak (3) | | Maltese (2) |
| Romanian (3) | | Slovene (2) | | Turkish (3) |
| Spanish (630) | | Polish (2) | | various African |
| Valencian (46) | | | | languages (8) |

Quelle représentatitvité?

# Désignation du genre

| Genre | Object | Attribute |
|---|---|---|
| guide | langue | non sexiste, désexisé·e |
| règles, règlement | rédaction | inclusif/inclusive |
| recommandations | écriture | épicène |
| propositions | formulation | non genré·e, … de genre |
| orientations | usage | égalitaire |
| manuel | communication | féminin·e, féminisé·e |
| directives, alternatives, solutions, | grammaire | non discriminatoire |
| vademecum, suggestions, instructions, | approche | sans stéréotypes |
| indications, décalogue, charte, avis, | traitement | neutre, neutralisé·e, |
| notification, rapport, décision, bonnes | etc. | sensible (aux genres), |
| pratiques, conseils, critères, fil rouge, etc. | | sensitif/sensitive, approprié·e, |
| | | respectueux/respectueuse, etc. |