The PI group “Variety and Distance”
presents in the CLS Colloquium Series:

Variability and destandardisation
by Stef Grondelaers & Roeland van Hout & others

Not many communities in Europe can boast (standard) language configurations which are as controversial and mediatised as The Low Countries. The PI group Variation and Distance studies the most important diagnostics of the oscillating language dynamics in Belgian and Netherlandic Dutch, viz. (increasing) variability and distance, and (decreasing) coherence. In this talk, we focus on a number of (related) research questions which are currently being investigated in the PI group.

- Does the Moroccan ethnolect of Dutch consist of (some) ethnic flavoring in Standard Dutch, or is it a coherent, separable variety because of clustering variants (Linda van Meel)?
- How (in)coherent are Belgian and Netherlandic Standard Dutch in view of the progressing “destandardization” widely reported and lamented in the (popular) press?
- A number of investigations (in cooperation with Hans van Halteren) zoom in on linguistic variables (e.g. subject-‘hun’) in Twitter which is eminently suited as “supplementary data for investigating non-frequent, non-canonical phenomena in spoken language” (Rehbein 2014: 20).
- With Antal van den Bosch, we have compared regression techniques with memory-based learning (MBL). In an analysis of the distribution of existential er “there”, MBL turned out to rival regression analysis in Netherlandic, but, to our surprise, not in Belgian Dutch.

Thursday, February 12th 2015, 16:00h (sharp)
GN 3 (Gymnasion)

More information: http://www.ru.nl/cls/colloquium