

Experience Day International Studies 27 March 2020



Universiteit
Leiden
The Netherlands

Location: Wijnhaven Building Turfmarkt 99 2511 DP The Hague

Lecture:

Title: Why do some countries have an official language and others don't?

Lecturer: Marina Terkourafi is professor and chair of sociolinguistics at the Leiden University Centre for Linguistics.

Abstract:

In the lecture sociolinguistics professor Marina Terkourafi will ask: "why do some countries have an official language and others don't?" and consider the implications of having an official language for countries and for languages.

Tutorial:

During the tutorial, the homework will be discussed.

Homework:

To prepare for the lecture and the following discussion in the tutorial, please read the following article and prepare answers to the discussion questions below.

Reading: <https://medium.com/english-language-faq/which-countries-do-not-have-an-official-language-1d2385633f8f>

Discussion questions for tutorial:

During the lecture, we discussed the common idea that all countries have an official language and found out that this is not true. But should a country have an official language?

- 1 What are the advantages for a country if it has an official language?
- 2 What are the disadvantages?
- 3 What are the advantages if it has two or three official languages?
- 4 What are the disadvantages?
- 5 What are the advantages for a language if it has official status in a country?
- 6 What are the disadvantages