Call for Papers

The 9th International Legal Linguistics Workshop (ILLWS26) will be held in Dijon, France from June 18 to 19, 2026 and co-hosted by the Austrian Association for Legal Linguistics (AALL) and the *Laboratoire Texte, Image, Langage* (*TIL*) at the *Université Bourgogne Europe*.

The workshop will focus around the theme

"Emancipating Legal Linguistics:
Hopes and Challenges for the Independence of an Interdiscipline."

Legal Linguistics has emerged in the Canadian tradition under the label *jurilinguistique* to address the difficulties of joint drafting and legal communication within a nation with two different legal languages, systems, and traditions. Since then, the study of legal language has developed into distinct subdisciplines in various academic traditions such as the Anglophone and European Legal Linguistics, the Germanist *Rechtslinguistik*, and the Russian *yurislingvistika*. These new interdisciplinary domains are often regarded as independent research areas, yet at the same time as special branches of LSP Research, and insulated from other more universal and non-abstract subject matters.

Situated within the broader field of language and law, Legal Linguistics now stands alongside more recent disciplines such as Forensic Linguistics and Language Rights and even appears in applied forms like Legal Translation Studies (LTS), *juritraductologie*, or *Rechtstranslatologie*, considering that the translation of legal texts is equally treated as a special case of translation studies. The aim of the workshop is to provide a forum for discussing innovative approaches, creating synergies and further developing the strengths of Legal Linguistics for the benefit of human beings and democratic societies.

With a growing number of volumes, workshops, and professional networks that specifically tackle legal language as a research area, this workshop welcomes papers exploring Legal Linguistics as an emancipating discipline, with a special focus on models and methodologies, specifically adapted to this field. Topics can relate but are not limited to discourse analysis, corpus-based research, specialized translation and communication strategies, AI and language technologies, legislation, comparative law, multilingualism, contrastive and applied linguistics, cognitive and epistemic aspects, as well as semantics, morphology, and syntax in law and in the context of legal methodology.

Submissions may seek to provide answers including but not limited to the following questions:

1. How can Legal Linguistics be conceptualised as an emancipating discipline within the broader field of language and law?

2. Which models, perspectives, or methodological orientations are needed to address legal language as a research object in its own right, rather than as a subsidiary of neighbouring disciplines?

3. How do different legal-linguistic traditions (e.g., *jurilinguistique*, *Rechtslinguistik*, Anglophone and other regional approaches) inform, challenge, or complement one another?

4. In which ways can research on legal discourse, legal texts, and legal communication contribute to democratic societies and the needs of human beings?

5. How can theoretical and applied approaches to legal language be meaningfully and productively connected across contexts such as legislation, interpretation and translation?

6. Which future directions, synergies, and challenges may emerge as Legal Linguistics, theoretical and applied, continues to expand across languages, legal cultures, and institutional settings?

ILLWS26 will be held in **English**, **French**, and **German**.

We are happy to announce the following keynote speakers:

- **Prof. Dr. Laurent Gautier**, Professor of Applied Linguistics at the Université Bourgogne Europe

- **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Martina Bajčić**, Head of Department of Foreign Languages at the Faculty of Law, University of Rijeka

Submission Guidelines

Applicants are invited to submit an abstract of **250 words**, including the title, theoretical background, research question(s), and methodology. The use of artificial intelligence tools in preparing submissions must comply with good academic practice. Submissions must be **original, unpublished, and not under review elsewhere**.

Deadline for abstract submission: 1 March 2026

Decision regarding acceptance or rejection by 31 March 2026

Conference fees EUR **50 per contributing scholar**, to be transferred in full to the **association bank account upon acceptance**.

Organising Committee

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