

Alexander-von-Humboldt Linguistic Marathon, May 15-25, 2023

Guest scholars from Cameroon and Nigeria and PhD students discussed their work on Empirical English Studies in four countries at six universities

Ibukun Filani (Georg Forster Research Fellow from Nigeria)

For me, the Linguistic Marathon was a remarkable experience, as it was my first time in the countries we visited. That we travelled across four European countries and presented papers at five universities in them offered me the opportunity to explore other European cultures and academic traditions. From Brno in the Czech Republic and Klagenfurt in Austria to four cities in Italy, I had opportunities to present my research to both students and experienced academics. The students asked valuable questions, and the researchers made comments that opened my eyes to new insights in research. The other attractions of the trip were the beautiful Alps and the distinctive cultures in the countries (architecture, monuments, and food). In Ferrara, for instance, I “encountered” philosophers on the menu in the pizzeria. What a great way to think about, say, Immanuel Kant while eating the pizza named after him! And Prof. Schmied was always nearby to explain the history behind the cathedrals, markets, foods, and monuments. The advantage for me is not just the academic engagements and intercultural interaction, but also the future academic collaborations that I am already exploring.



Picture 1 At the Modena cathedral: Daniel Nkemeleke, Daniel Ajayi, Marina Ivanova, Josef Schmied and Ibukun Filani