

# **“A revised assessment of linguistic diversity in Africa and some implications”**

**Tom Güldemann**

(Berlin, Leipzig)

For almost 60 years, the linguistic diversity in Africa has been evaluated with almost exclusive reference to Greenberg’s (1963) continental genealogical classification. However, his assessment is increasingly viewed to be “badly in need of major reinvestigation and reworking” (Campbell and Poser 2008: 128). I have outlined in Güldemann (2018) a new approach to classifying African languages, not only by providing a very different perspective on currently robust genealogical relationships but also by assessing large-scale areal linguistic configurations. In the talk I discuss some implications of the far more diverse and internally structured linguistic landscape of Africa for research involving the continent’s languages, notably regarding language sampling and priority documentation.

## **References**

Campbell, Lyle and William J. Poser. 2008. *Language classification: history and method*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Greenberg, Joseph H. 1963. *The languages of Africa*. Publications 25. Bloomington: Research Center in Anthropology, Folklore, and Linguistics, Indiana University Press.

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