Eva-Maria Roessler

“I will talk about my field research situation and will show some of my current work on morphosyntax of Aché, a Tupi-Guaraní language that underwent heavy reduction in functional morphology. I am trying to trace syntactic changes linked to the morphological restructuring. My work is comparative, so will show data from Aché (the contact language) and Guaraní a more ‘typical’ member of the language family, most likely the most important lexical source for Aché. Aché is a very endangered language, spoken by not more than 300 elderly speakers in Eastern Paraguay and not very well studied so far. Syntax description is still very scarce for the entire TG language family. My general interest is historical language change at the syntax-morphology interface, and the old question how components of grammar interact in grammar change. Also the contact scenario involved in the emergence of Aché interests me very much, given current hypothesis it is a pre-conquest contact that does not involve any European expansion. I believe these recently discovered languages have much to contribute to theory on language contact in future. I am also interested in developing better methods to work on these issues related to indigenous languages. Obviously data is restricted on both the languages and socio-historical conditions of this type of language contact.”