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SEMINAR

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# Echoes of diversity: the quiet war of languages in the age of globalization

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One of the most silent wars affecting our world today is one that we all unconsciously fight. This war tells the story of many small, highly sensitive languages struggling for survival, and a few larger, stronger, and more arrogant languages that dominate, relishing their power to erase less fortunate competitors.

Starting with global ecolinguistic mapping, the seminar will move into the sociolinguistic dimension and present the dynamics governing the current global linguistic market, aiming to raise awareness of the dramatic scenario our world is heading towards, which will result in an irreversible and unstoppable decline in linguistic diversity.

However, languages are not independent entities. They are tools that people and communities use for communication, and their rise or decline results from conscious or unconscious choices made to better adapt to their context.

Questions related to human and linguistic rights will be briefly addressed, and various specific case studies from Africa, illustrating some of the most common problems related to communication in multilingual and rapidly changing linguistic ecosystems, will be presented for group discussion.