



AILA 2008

Dear colleague,

AILA 2008 will take place in about two weeks time. So far, about 1.400 delegates and presenters from around the world have registered for the congress, and we are looking forward to a week of stimulating academic discourse as well as a welcome opportunity for the applied linguistics community to intensify and strengthen its networks.

With this mail, we are sending you a few further pieces of **information to facilitate your trip** to Essen. These **are contained in the attached documents**, which we ask you to check carefully. The text of this mail is also attached as a document - **general info.pdf**.

Should there be a problem with the attachments, you can also download these files from the AILA 2008 website at:

These documents concern the following aspects:

### **Travel to Essen:**

As said in an earlier mail, you have free travel on the local public transport system for the period from August 23 – 30. Information as to this is contained in the document **welcome to germany.pdf**, which also serves as your ticket prior to check-in at AILA 2008. This document was already sent to most of you, but we attach it anyway to be on the safe side.

A further document **travel.pdf** provides some general information which you might find useful when preparing your trip to Germany and Essen, such as climate, useful information as to banking, customs formalities and so on.

### **Check-in and registration:**

Conference office: As you know, due to the large number of presentations and symposia, AILA 2008 uses two venues. However, check-in and conference office are situated in the CCE Congress Centre (CCE West) only. The underground station (line U 11) for CCE is *Messe Essen West/Süd, Gruga*, which is the final stop.

Early Check-in: In order to facilitate check-in, the conference office will be open on Saturday, August 22, from 15-18 hrs, and on Sunday, August 23, from 10 am onwards until the opening ceremony at 17 hrs. If you do arrive in time for these opening hours, we invite you to make use of this service in order to avoid delays. During the conference week, the office will be open every day from one hour before sessions until one hour after sessions.

As your conference ticket also includes free entry into the Gruga-Park ( <http://www.grugapark.de/im-park.html> ) right next to the CCE Conference Centre with its botanic gardens and other attractions, you might want to combine an early check-in with a leisure walk in the park and gardens, once you've picked up your conference badge. Also, the "Sommerfest an der Gruga" is still going on until August 24, and invites you to its family fun with flea-market, a fun fair, etc.

If you arrive on Monday or any of the following days only and are planning to attend individual papers at the University Campus Essen in the morning, you have two options. You can either check-in at CCE and then travel to the campus by direct underground link (travel time appr. 10 mins + a few mins walk to the station). Or, if you prefer to attend session at Campus Essen in the morning first, i.e. before checking-in at CCE, please use a print-out of the attached document **welcome to germany.pdf** to identify yourself as a registered participant. You can then deal with your check-in as soon as you switch to the CCE, where every day a focal point is the daily keynote presentation at lunchtime. Please check the program at <http://www.aila2008.org/structure-program.html> for further details.

## Opening Ceremony

The opening ceremony will start at 17 hrs on Sunday, August 24, 2008, in the CCE Congress Centre (CCE West). We pleased to announce that the patron of AILA 2008, Armin Laschet, NRW Minister for Intergenerational Affairs, Family, Women, and Integration, will personally attend and welcome delegates. This ceremony is followed by the opening keynote by Neville Alexander from South Africa.

## Meeting Point on Saturday evening:

In order to provide an opportunity to meet up with colleagues already in Essen on Saturday, we have booked a restaurant from 18 hrs onwards just next to the CCE Congress Centre and Gruga. The restaurant, **Drago Restaurant "An der Gruga"**, (Alfredstr. 122, 45131 Essen) serves a variety of regional and international food at very reasonable prices. The stop on U 11 for this is Messe Ost/Grugahalle.

The AILA executive will have dinner there on Saturday, and if you arrive in Essen on Saturday, you might want to join them there after check-in. It is just around the corner from the CCE.

**Important:** As we need to let the restaurant have an approximate figure as to the number of people they might expect, please let us know that you are planning to come to **Drago's** by sending a short e-mail to [events-aila2008@uni-due.de](mailto:events-aila2008@uni-due.de)

## **Tickets for Social Program:**

If you have registered for either the concert on Monday evening or the conference party on Thursday evening, or booked an excursion for Wednesday, please make sure that you buy your tickets in time for the event in question. Payment in cash only! You can purchase the tickets from the conference office at CCE West. This is possible also when using our early check-in option on Saturday or Sunday.

## **Special addition to the tour program on Wednesday afternoon:**

Essen Walks prepared by pupils from Helmholtz Gymnasium. On Wednesday afternoon, we are offering a very special treat. Modeled on the famous London Walks, pupils have prepared 5 Essen Walks as part of a project in their English classes, offering a look behind the scenes of Essen and some of its very special quarters. The pupils will guide 5 groups of max. 15 participants each in English. This is a unique opportunity for delegates at AILA 2008 to experience the results of project-based learning in EFL classrooms in Germany and at the same time get a closer look at some of the highlights of the city of Essen. There is a charge of € 5,-- only to cover some of the expenses the pupils have had as well as the transfer by bus to the sights of the Walks. If you are interested, please send an e-mail immediately to [events-aila2008@uni-duisburg-essen.de](mailto:events-aila2008@uni-duisburg-essen.de) to secure a place.

## **Other tours on Wednesday**

Even though the deadline for booking Wednesday excursions with Essen Marketing (EMG) ended on August 4, there still are places available and bookable for the following tours:

Tour 1	Discover Essen
Tour 3	On the road towards industrial culture
Tour 7	Von der Heyd Museum in Wuppertal
Tour 9	Neanderthal Museum in Mettmann
Tour 11	Discover the South of Essen by bike
Tour 12	Canoeing on the Ruhr

For those interested in the Cologne tour (already fully booked) EMG is opening a waiting list for a potential additional bus.

Please note: Any registrations or enquiries until August 15 directly to the following e-mail address: [braun@emg.essen.de](mailto:braun@emg.essen.de)

**A final highlight for those arriving on Friday or Saturday –  
City festival: Essen Original**

Luck has it that the City of Essen is having its *Stadtfestival*, a weekend of music and culture, right at the start of AILA 2008. The whole of the city centre of Essen will be the venue for open-air fun and music performances from Friday, August 22, until Sunday, August 24. Food and drink is available as well. Further information is available from <http://www.essen-original.de/>