

Language interplay in the Channel zone: can we map language interactions?

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The ERC project, Latinization of the north-western Roman provinces (LatinNow) investigates how, when and why change in Latin language occurred, and how it relates to other social phenomena. The Roman Empire was full of movement and connections and in particular, the so called “Channel zone” offers an interesting scenario to analyse, since it was an interactive space where the provinces of Roman Britain, Gallia Belgica, Germania Superior and Inferior were closely linked, in terms of local languages and population movements. In addition to that, the stationing of northern continental groups around Hadrian’s Wall is also a very interesting feature that went into these very interesting phenomena. In these studies, Latin has been examined in its role of an extremely successful lingua franca among the Roman Provinces, and the scope of this research is to focus on what happened to the tapestry of local languages, possible cases of bi- and multilingualism and the complexity within Latin itself, cutting across provincial boundaries.

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