

THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER AND
NANYANG TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY

MULTILINGUALISM, MIGRATION AND THE MULTILINGUAL CITY



5TH- 6TH JULY 2021 / ONLINE

5TH JULY - 7.50AM - 11.45AM BST / 2.50PM - 6.45PM SGT

6TH JULY - 8.00AM - 12.15PM BST / 23.00PM - 7.15PM SGT



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WELCOME

We are delighted to welcome you to this online symposium hosted by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures at the University of Exeter and Department of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies at Nanyang Technological University.

The presentations will focus on case studies of multilingualism and migration with a particular focus on the multilingual city, followed by a final round table on the study of multilingualism in the city. Speakers from both universities will present their current research, together with experts from other universities in the UK, Germany, East Timor and Australia. This symposium has been jointly organised by the University of Exeter, UK (Dr Francesco Goglia) and Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (Prof Francesco Cavallaro) and supported financially by Exeter Global Partnerships (2020-21 Outward Mobility Academic Fellowship).

This is an online event hosted via Zoom by The University of Exeter – Department of Modern Languages and Cultures. The event is free to attend.

Please browse through the following pages for the programme and information on the presentations delivered across both days.

We hope you enjoy the programme of events and we thank you for attending.

Sign-up on Eventbrite via: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/multilingualism-migration-and-the-multilingual-city-symposium-2021-tickets-161020858723>



PROGRAMME

Monday 5th July

UK (BST)	Singapore (SGT)	Timor (Dili)	Australia (Melbourne – AEST)	Speaker(s)	Event
7.50-8.15am	2.50-3.15pm	3.50-4.15pm	4.50-5.15pm	Fiona Cox (University of Exeter) Francesco Goglia (University of Exeter) Francesco Cavallaro (Nanyang Technological University)	Introduction
8.15-8.45am	3.15-3.45pm	4.15-4.45pm	5.15-5.45pm	Francesco Goglia (University of Exeter)	Onward migration and reshaped linguistic repertoires: the case of Italo- Nigerians in the UK
8.45-9.15am	3.45-4.15pm	4.45-5.15pm	5.45-6.15pm	John Hajek (University of Melbourne)	Marvellous Multilingual Melbourne: understanding transformation
9.15-9.45am	4.15-4.45pm	5.15-5.45pm	6.15-6.45pm	Antonia Rubino (University of Sydney)	Multilingualism amongst the younger migrant generations: The Australian- Italian case
9.45-10.15am	4.45-5.15pm	5.45-6.15pm	6.45-7.15pm	Break	Break
10.15-10.45am	5.15-5.45pm	6.15-6.45pm	7.15-7.45pm	Ng Bee Chin and Francesco Cavallaro (Nanyang Technological University)	Multilingual City: Singapore 2020
10.45-11.15am	5.45-6.15pm	6.45-7.15pm	7.45-8.15pm	Ying Ying Tan (Nanyang Technological University)	The myth of multilingualism in Singapore
11.15-11.45am	6.15-6.45pm	7.15-7.45pm	8.15-8.45pm	Susana Afonso (University of Exeter)	Discourses of multilingualism in “Portuguese-speaking” Africa

PROGRAMME

Tuesday 6th July

UK (BST)	Singapore (SGT)	Timor (Dili)	Australia (Melbourne – AEST)	Speaker(s)	Event
8.00-8.15am	3.00-3.15pm	4.00-4.15pm	5.00-5.15pm		Introduction
8.15-8.45am	3.15-3.45pm	4.15-4.45pm	5.15-5.45pm	Catharina Williams-van Klinken and Olinda Lucas (Dili Institute of Technology and Biblia ba Ema Hotu)	Multilingualism in Timor-Leste
8.45-9.15am	3.45-4.15pm	4.45-5.15pm	5.45-6.15pm	Anne Pauwels (University of Melbourne)	Muting Multilingualism? Linguistic diversity in pandemic times
9.15-9.45am	4.15-4.45pm	5.15-5.45pm	6.15-6.45pm	Luke Lu (Nanyang Technological University)	The (in)significance of race in Singapore's immigration context
9.45-10.15am	4.45-5.15pm	5.45-6.15pm	6.45-7.15pm	Break	Break
10.15-10.45am	5.15-5.45pm	6.15-6.45pm	7.15-7.45pm	Peter Siemund (University of Hamburg)	Is Dubai recapitulating Singapore's development? A comparison of two global cities
10.45-11.15pm	5.45-6.15pm	6.45-7.15pm	7.45-8.15pm	Clare Mar-Molinero (University of Southampton)	Researching multilingually: how do we research multilingualism in the city?
11.15-12.15pm	6.15-7.15pm	7.15-8.15pm	8.15-9.15pm	Clare Mar-Molinero, John Hajek, Peter Siemund	Round Table: the study of multilingual cities

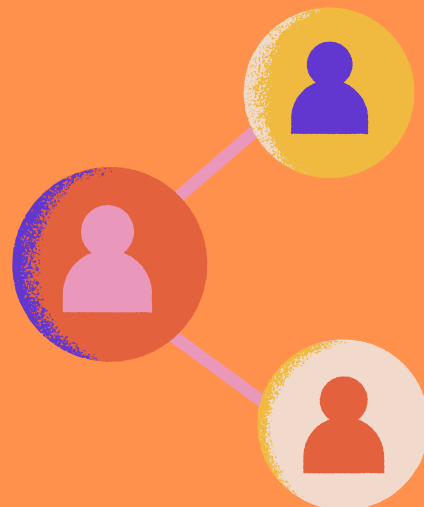
PRESENTATIONS

Monday 5th July

Onward migration and re-shaped linguistic repertoires: the case of Italian-Nigerians in the UK

This paper discusses the complex linguistic repertoires and language use of Italian-Nigerians families who have migrated onward from Italy to the UK. These speakers have at their disposal a rich linguistic repertoire, that includes English, Italian, as well as any one or more Nigerian languages (Igbo, Yoruba) and Nigerian Pidgin English. The research is based on interviews with 8 second-generation participants of Italian-Nigerian families residing in the UK. The format and content of the interviews were specifically designed to gain a thorough understanding of how both parents and children (i.e. the second generation) of this community reshape their complex linguistic repertoires and re-prioritise their linguistic resources as they settle in the UK. Initial results reveal that the second generation maintain Italian with same-age peer friendships and older siblings, and they view Italian as linguistic capital for their career prospects in the UK or as a support to a potential return to Italy. Italian is also maintained in conversations with parents often in the form of code-switching. English is considered by all to be the most important language and, together with a British education for the second generation, it is the main pull factor for families in their decision to migrate onward from Italy. Onward migration allows these families to restart the process of language shift towards English, which was interrupted during the years spent in Italy (in which English has no status), in a parallel way to language shift towards English taking place in their countries of origin, in which the Nigerian languages are giving way to the officially recognised language.

Francesco Goglia
University of Exeter



PRESENTATIONS

Marvellous Multilingual Melbourne: understanding transformation

Melbourne, established in 1835, was even in its early days a dynamic centre of immigration and population growth. In one year, 1851, when gold was discovered nearby, its population increased from 29,000 to 75,000. Within ten years it had more than half a million inhabitants, and by the 1880s, fuelled by gold, it was known as Marvellous Melbourne. Today it has more than 5m residents, with a third of its population speaking a language other than English in the home, and a similar proportion born overseas. Rapid population growth in recent decades has seen diversification of Melbourne's linguistic and cultural makeup – moving beyond traditional patterns of migration and indicative of broader national and international trends, e.g. the rise of international education, and transient mobility, etc....

While Melbourne has been a focus of research on multilingualism and migration for some time (e.g. Clyne and Kipp 2006, papers in Sharifian and Musgrave 2013, and in Hajek and Slaughter 2014), here we look at this multilingual city through a combination of slightly different lenses for a more nuanced view:

- (a) a city with a particular geographical/physical disposition;
- (b) a city whose population and language profile changes over time;
- (c) a city whose sociolinguistic profile is changing through migration social change, education, etc.

We also look at a small number of language-specific case studies to highlight and understand the different development and status of linguistically diverse communities in Melbourne. In one case, for instance, we see a mismatch between physical and demographic reality and popular belief. While many of the patterns and changes seen in Melbourne may be seen as predictable consequences of living in a large city, closer inspection of specific communities also indicates that they are the undergoing their own specific processes of language shift – as a result of transnational processes under way elsewhere – under a local roof of language maintenance, shift and change over time.

References

- Clyne, Michael and Sandra Kipp (2006). Tiles in a multilingual mosaic : Macedonian, Filipino and Somali in Melbourne. Canberra: Pacific Linguistics.
- Hajek, J. and Y. Slaughter (2014). Challenging the monolingual mindset. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.
- Sharifian, F. and S. Musgrave (2013). Migration and multilingualism in Melbourne. Special issue of International Journal of Multilingualism 10(4).

John Hajek

University of Melbourne



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PRESENTATIONS

Multilingualism amongst the younger migrant generations: The Australian-Italian case

In this presentation I will offer some reflections regarding the multilingualism of the younger migrant generations drawing upon findings emerging from a recent project conducted amongst 18 to 30 year old Australian-Italians. The third generation (i.e. those with parents born in the migration context) remains largely underresearched in spite of their growing numbers and their crucial role with regard to long-term language maintenance (Pauwels 2016). This is also the case in the Italian diaspora worldwide, where most linguistic research has focused on the first and the second generation (e.g. Di Salvo and Moreno 2017). Amongst the issues that I consider are the ideology of 'flexible' multilingualism (Blackledge and Creese 2010) displayed by these young participants, who view their heritage languages (Italian and dialect) as useful communicative resources that can be employed in creative ways; and language choice as varying in relation to the different migrant generation, in that amongst the younger generations, language maintenance, whenever it takes place, is mainly a matter of choice rather than necessity.

Antonia Rubino
University of Sydney



PRESENTATIONS

Multilingual City: Singapore 2020

This presentation gives a first look and analysis of the latest census data on language use in Singapore which the Singapore Department of Statistics (SDS) released in June 2021. Census data is notoriously known for its lack of nuanced detail and for not accounting for the bi- or multilingualism in a society. The census question in Singapore has historically been on 'which language is used most frequently spoken at home' which gives an inaccurate description of the fluid linguistic practice as documented by many researchers. However, in the latest census the SDS included an additional question on 'which is the second language most frequently spoken at home'. In our opinion, this addition has had the interesting effect of 1) finally giving us additional useful set of linguistic data, and 2) enabling Singaporeans to more accurately report on their multilingual linguistic practices at home. This presentation tracks the changing repertoire of Singaporeans across the three main ethnic groups over the last 50 years and analyses the implications of the latest data on the linguistic future of Singapore.

Francesco Cavallaro & Ng Bee Chin
Linguistics and Multilingual Studies
Nanyang Technological University

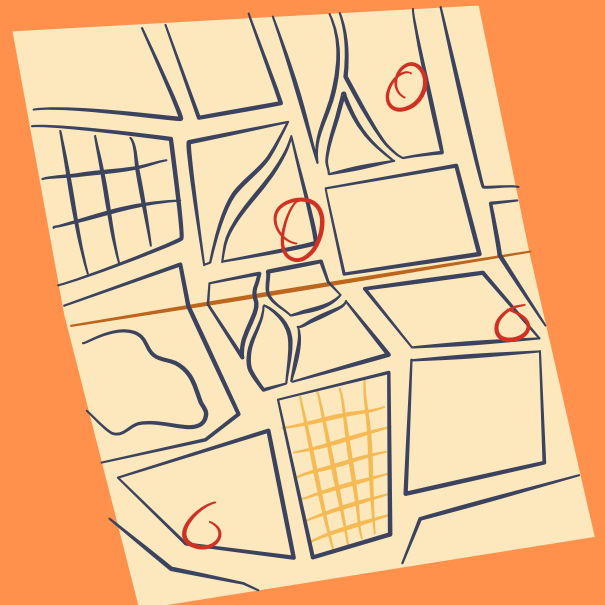


PRESENTATIONS

The Myth of Multilingualism in Singapore

While recent scholars have shown how an increasingly multilingual Europe challenges the Herderian model of “monoglot nations,” Singapore has instead seemingly shown itself to be a working example of the Herderian theory. The aim of this paper is to look at how Herder can be used to understand the building of the nation in Singapore, and in particular, explore the relationship between language(s) and the nation. What then does the case of Singapore imply for the Herderian mantra and in the process, what does the Herderian mantra reveal about the nature of multilingualism in Singapore? This paper explores and traces the development of multilingualism in Singapore by using empirical data from large-scale language surveys conducted over the last few years, as well as language policy statements to tell the story of how the state envisages the relationship between language and nation-building in the postcolonial years. This paper argues how multilingual Singapore is a myth created to balance the development of the Herderian ideal and the realities of how languages come to represent the nation.

Ying Ying Tan
Linguistics and Multilingual Studies
Nanyang Technological University



PRESENTATIONS



Discourses of multilingualism in "Portuguese-speaking" Africa

Countries that were colonised by Portugal reconfigured themselves as multilingual countries after independence in the 1970s. The management of the diverse linguistic and cultural realities of the nation was to rebrand Portuguese, former colonial language, as a "neutral", supranational language, a symbol of unity in diversity. Portuguese became instrumental in the nation-building project. This presentation will discuss the multiple discourses on multilingualism in "Portuguese-speaking Africa" after independence, particularly in Angola and Mozambique, and how these discourses have shaped the geographies of the languages. The presentation will also explore how multilingual discourses have shaped the attitudes towards the languages by imposing a monolithic logic to thinking about language, which is far removed from the actual linguistic practices.

Susana Afonso
University of Exeter



PRESENTATIONS

Tuesday 6th July

Multilingualism in Timor-Leste

As a result of a tumultuous colonial history, adults in Timor-Leste who want to participate fully in national-level debate need to master four languages – in addition to their own. For most East Timorese, their own language is one of the 20 or so Austronesian or 5 Papuan languages. These are used in the home, within the language community, and in all traditional ritual contexts. Over the last 20 years, many have moved from local languages to Tetun Dili as the language of the home. The official languages are Tetun Dili and Portuguese. Most adults were however educated in Indonesian. Finally, English plays a significant role as a result of a large international presence. Since East Timor's vote for independence in 1999, Indonesian has been relegated to the sidelines, being mainly heard through satellite television, and used in some parts of higher education and in business. Portuguese is the language of the official version of the law, of some government and parliamentary debate, and of some government television and radio programming. In theory, much schooling, especially in the higher grades, is also in Portuguese. Tetun is however used for many of the high language functions, including church, much parliamentary debate, most public meetings, much education, most of the print media, much locally-produced television and radio programming, and much reporting. Foreign advisers have a significant impact on the languages used in organisations and even government departments. Some use Portuguese, while many from non-Portuguese-speaking countries use Tetun and English. At the informal end of the spectrum, Facebook and slang are melting pots in which all four languages meet in interesting ways.

Catharina Williams-van Klinken and Olinda Lucas
Dili Institute of Technology and
Biblia ba Ema Hotu



PRESENTATIONS

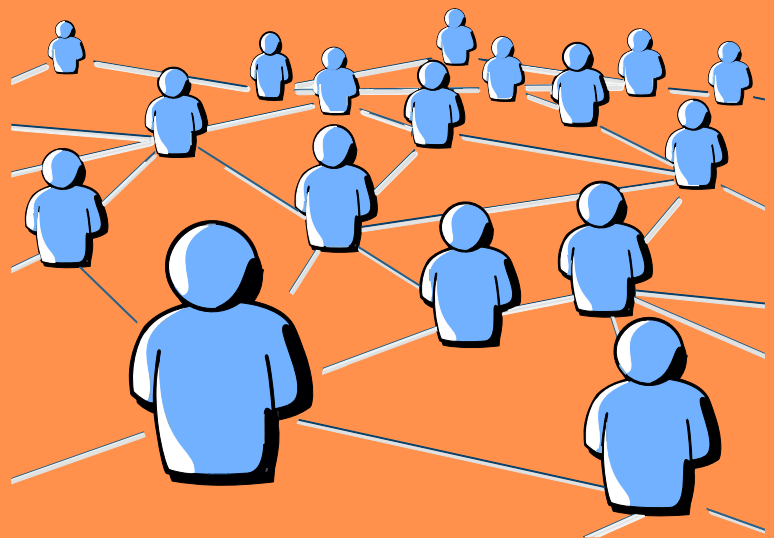


Muting Multilingualism? Linguistic diversity in pandemic times

In this contribution, I reflect on the possible short-term as well as long-term consequences of a global pandemic on various aspects of multilingualism and language diversity. Linguistic diversity and multilingualism have a close link to people's mobility. During the 20th and 21st century access to global mobility has widened greatly, resulting in many more people moving around more frequently over longer distances. Consequently, many countries, especially western-located or influenced countries have seen a substantial increase in the linguistic diversity of their population and in the linguistic landscapes [LL] of their urban areas. A key element in the 'fight' against the spread of infection is the curtailing of mobility including lockdowns of and curfews for entire countries. Australia, and especially the state of Victoria, has opted for a very strict curtailing of movement that is likely to affect its multilingual character over a longer period. Here I briefly touch upon three areas of communication/language use that may 'suffer' longer time consequences because of the pandemic. My main focus, however, will be on the effect of the pandemic on urban SOUNDSCAPES based on some recent observations in Melbourne, Australia.

Anne Pauwels

SOAS University of London/University of Melbourne



PRESENTATIONS

The (in)significance of race in Singapore's immigration context

One key criterion in Singapore's immigration policy is one of racial identity – most immigrants must fit into state-sanctioned categories of Chinese, Indian, or Malay. As part of this policy, the Singapore state recruits top-performing students from China with scholarships to augment the local talent pool. This talk examines accounts by academically elite immigrant students from China, about their experiences of school in Singapore and how they related to their peers. For these informants from China, being ethnically Chinese is not necessarily an asset that facilitates interaction and affiliation with Singaporeans. Overt Chinese practices, such as speaking Mandarin, are actually to be avoided in the presence of local peers. Instead, what are valued are linguistic practices that index localisation, such as being proficient in Singlish, the local vernacular. This is despite state recognition of 'Chinese' racial identity and Mandarin as an official language. I suggest that this might be due to a combination of the historical devaluation of Mandarin amongst Singapore's academic elites, prevalent anti-immigrant sentiment in Singapore, and the status of Singlish as marker of local identity. Such experiences are similar to accounts of frictions and fractures between Singaporean Indians and foreign-born Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) uncovered in other studies. As a consequence of local conditions in specific domains, cultural practices of immigrants from China and India are re-valued and made manifest as inequalities when transported to a different space. I argue that the phenomenon can be better understood and anticipated through the metaphor of 'scales' (Blommaert 2010, Canagarajah 2013).

Luke Lu

Nanyang Technological University



PRESENTATIONS



Is Dubai recapitulating Singapore's development? A comparison of two global cities

Both Singapore and Dubai are multilingual and multi-ethnic global cities where English is used as the primary medium of communication. While Singapore was shaped by British colonialism, Dubai is better viewed as a product of English-centred globalization despite the fact that English was taken to the Arabian Gulf at around the same time that Sir Stamford Raffles arrived in Singapore (1819). Large-scale migration to Dubai only started in the 1960s with the discovery of oil; around one hundred years after migration to Singapore began to accelerate. The ethno-linguistic composition of the two cities is quite different. They represent different multilingual ecologies.

The presentation compares the multilingual ecologies of Singapore and Dubai, both along the historical and contemporary dimensions. It considers the relevant migration histories and language policies as well as the language repertoires, language use, self-reported proficiencies, and attitudes in comparable student cohorts. As expected, one finds many similarities and differences, but it is surprising to see how closely the two cities resemble one another on certain measures. The presentation further enquires into the status of English in the two locales. While it is indisputable that Singapore has developed its own English norms (especially Colloquial Singapore English), English in Dubai is more of a lingua franca type with incipient endonormativity. There, heterogeneity of speakers produces heterogeneity in the use of English. Despite important social and technological differences, modern Dubai is reminiscent of Singapore during its early colonial decades and offers a window into the latter city's history.

Siemund, Peter and Jakob Leimgruber (eds.) (2021). *Multilingual Global Cities: Singapore, Hong Kong, Dubai*. Singapore: Routledge. Multilingual Asia Series.

Peter Siemund
University of Hamburg



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PRESENTATIONS



Researching multilingually: how do we research multilingualism in the city?

I will divide this talk into two sections: firstly, some thoughts and considerations around *how* we research language in the city, and in particular what contributions ‘researching multilingually’ may afford us (Holmes, et al, 2013, 2016; Stelma, et al, 2013). Much research to date has focussed on *what* we discover and learn about when we examine language and the city. Here I want to consider what methods we might employ and how we position our role as researchers in exploring language and the city. Secondly, I will illustrate this by discussing some attitudes and language ideologies encountered towards language use in the city of Southampton, UK, and reflect, retrospectively, on my own approach to researching its multilingualism (Cadier & Mar-Molinero, 2014; Mar-Molinero, 2020).

Clare Mar-Molinero
University of Southampton.





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Thank you to all of our speakers, attendees and supporters.



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