Thinking, practicing and living plurilingualism – 3rd edition

Il faut agir davantage, penser moins, et ne pas se regarder vivre.
(Sébastien-Roch Nicolas de Chamfort, Maximes et pensées, posth., 1795)

Following on from the international conferences “Teaching and learning languages in the shadow of lingua franca” (2019) and “Appreciating Plurilingual Competencies: Current and Future Perspectives” (2022), Masaryk University, Université libre de Bruxelles and Université de Fribourg/Freiburg are continuing their fruitful collaboration by launching a third edition devoted to advances in research in the field of plurilingualism. The next conference, entitled Thinking, practicing and living plurilingualism, will be held 6–7 June 2024 at Masaryk University in Brno.

Reflecting the broad themes of this third conference, the three interconnected and complementary verbs of the title reflect an expanded sphere of investigation into language didactics and the construction of plurilingual identities, mostly linked to institutionalized places of learning such as schools or universities but also to other fields and approaches, to other professions and profiles involved in the exercise of interculturality and in the planning or management of plurilingual spaces.

This international conference will bring together contributions from specialists in language didactics, didactics of plurilingualism, and language policies, grouped into three main sections for the purposes of fruitful exchange:

**Plurilingualism and reflexivity.** The construction of plurilingual identities through metalinguistic (Woll, 2018) and metacognitive (Jessner, 2020; Cenoz, 2021) awareness as well as reflexive practices associated, though not exclusively, with (auto)biographical methods and intercultural approaches make it possible to decompartmentalize the various fields of observation related to plurilingualism. As teaching tools and research methods, these learning narratives have a reflexive function insofar as they catalyse awareness of acquisition
processes through the verbalization of experiences, whether positive or negative (Pavlenko, 2007; Baroni, 2021; Keller-Gerber, 2022; Jeanneret, 2010).

**Managing and enhancing multilingual environments.** As language didactics and education in a multilingual context are framed and even conditioned by the presence, implicit or explicit, of a language policy that underpins them, we need further exploration and analysis of their interdependent links (Cenoz, 2019; Cognigni, 2020; Krumm, 2021, Iannàccaro, 2021). Similarly, the management of linguistic diversity and the valorisation of plurilingual and intercultural skills within companies and institutions could constitute a relevant research angle (Carrère, 2016; Berthele, 2014).

**Projects promoting multilingualism.** As multilingualism is often practised informally, this section aims to provide a space for the presentation of inter-university and inter-institutional collaborations and projects in which multilingualism is a constituent and driving force.

**Thematic areas**

Proposals may fall into one of the following three sections:

**Section 1: Didactics of plurilingualism and reflexivity**

- **Plurilingual identity:** metalinguistic awareness and other strategies for building a plurilingual and pluricultural identity (linguistic repertoire, translinguaging practices, language contact, motivation, etc.)
- **Reflexive practices** as research methods and teaching tools in the field of plurilingualism: the role of narratives and discourses in promoting awareness of the processes of acquiring and learning plurilingual skills, language (auto-)biographies, and other modes of expressing plurilingual and inter/pluricultural identity.
- **Plurilingual and pluricultural skills:** inter-comprehension, partial skills, contrastive and complementary approaches, mediation, etc.

**Section 2: Managing and enhancing multilingual environments**

- **Language policy** in schools and universities: language planning, linguistic geography, language hierarchies or parallelism, substitution or complementarity, multilingual curricula, etc.
- **The cohabitation of languages in the world of work:** spaces dedicated to languages (language of work, publication, communication, etc.), valuing multi/plurilingualism in companies and associations, harmonious or conflicting use of languages, the language market, etc.
- **(Continuous) training in interculturality and plurilingualism:** training for teaching and administrative staff, training for managers and employees within companies, etc.
Section 3. Projects promoting multilingualism

- **Intra/inter-university projects, inter-institutional collaborations**, inspiring and transferable schemes in which multilingualism is a constituent and driving force.
- **Research projects on reflexive practices** relating to plurilingual and pluricultural experience

**References:**


Conference Languages

Papers may be delivered in German, English, Spanish, French, Italian, or Czech.

Conference Session Formats

Oral presentations

30 minutes, i.e. 20-minute presentation + 10-minute discussion.

Talks can be delivered in one of the conference languages. Supporting material (slides, handouts and other visuals) must be in English or in another language of the conference if the talk is in English.

Workshops

40 minutes

Workshops are practice-oriented sessions that are supposed to engage participants in a series of participative activities so that they can gain hands-on experience with tools, strategies or best practices.

Submission Guidelines

Proposals must contain the following:

1. title of the presentation/workshop,
2. thematic area,
3. a 250-word summary in the language of the presentation/workshop,
4. 5 keywords,
5. an 100-word abstract in English or in another conference language if the presentation is in English,
6. a 60-word biographical note,
7. up to 6 bibliographical references specific to the proposal.

Proposals will be blind reviewed by members of the Scientific Committee. The presenters will receive an answer of acceptance (or rejection) by 21 February 2024.
Proposals should be submitted in .docx (Word) format through an online registration form [HERE](#).

**Publication of Selected Texts**

The publication of a plurilingual collective work on the theme of the conference is planned for 2025.

**IMPORTANT DATES**

- Registration opening: 30 October 2023
- Submission of abstracts: 7 February 2024
- Notification of acceptance: 21 February 2024
- Conference dates: 6–7 June 2024

**CONFERENCE FEES**

- Early bird (until 31 March 2024): 130 EUR
- Standard: 150 EUR

If you have any questions, please contact: colloquebrno@cjv.muni.cz

**REGISTRATION**

To register, fill in the form on the [conference website](#).

**CONFERENCE WEBSITE**

https://colloquebrno2024.cjv.muni.cz/

**CONTACT**

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