

Murray Edwards College, University of Cambridge, 16-18 April 2018

## **Multilingualism: Empowering Individuals, Transforming Societies (MEITS)**

Call for papers for the conference on

### **Global approaches to multilingualism and standardisation**

Proposals are welcomed from **Early Career Researchers** on any of the themes outlined below, or anything else that relates to **standard languages and language standardization**. Proposals are particularly encouraged regarding linguistic contexts which comparatively have received little attention from work on language standardization, or which consider theoretical or methodological issues.

The confirmed speakers for the event are:

Anvita Abbi, Jawaharlal Nehru University  
Samantha Disbray, Charles Darwin University, Australia  
Lynn Drapeau, Université du Québec à Montréal  
Stephan Elspaß, University of Salzburg  
Francesc Feliu/Josep Nadal, University of Girona  
Patrick Heinrich, Ca' Foscari University of Venice  
Raymond Hickey, University of Duisburg-Essen  
Michael Hornsby, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań  
Alexandra Jaffe, California State University Long Beach  
Douglas Kibbee, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign  
Tore Kristiansen, University of Copenhagen  
Friederike Lüpke, SOAS, University of London  
Nicola McLelland, University of Nottingham  
Nicoletta Maraschio, University of Florence  
Bettina Migge, University College Dublin  
Catherine Miller, Aix-Marseille University  
Ronice Müller de Quadros, Federal University of Santa Catarina/Christian Rathmann,  
University of Hamburg  
Noel Ó Murchada, Trinity College Dublin  
Darren Paffey, University of Southampton  
Sergio Romero, The University of Texas at Austin  
Gijsbert Rutten, Leiden University/Rik Vosters, Vrije Universiteit Brussel  
Serhii Vakulenko, Kharkiv National Pedagogical University  
Minglang Zhou, University of Maryland

Please send your abstract of no more than 1 side of A4 to [meits@mml.cam.ac.uk](mailto:meits@mml.cam.ac.uk) by no later than **30 November 2017**. Practical details about the conference and its location can be found at <http://www.meits.org/events/event/global-approaches-to-multilingualism-and-standardisation>. This conference is being organised as part of the AHRC-funded project Multilingualism: Empowering Individuals, Transforming Societies ([MEITS](#)).

Thanks to the generosity of the **Historical Sociolinguistics Research and Training Program**, funded by the Research Foundation Flanders (FWO), we hope to make four awards of up to €375 per person to cover accommodation and travel expenses.

### Conference Themes

The conference aims to provide a comprehensive and comparative investigation into standardization, norms and standard languages, covering a broad range of linguistic contexts and research perspectives. The set of common thematic areas listed below is intended to facilitate a comparative and contrastive orientation to the conference, which will open up new perspectives on language standardization since discussions to date have largely or entirely centred on European languages. Taken together, the papers will present original recent research exploring the subject through the lens of education, language endangerment and revitalization, language policy, literature, minoritized languages, multilingualism and other salient areas.

Research questions include, but are not limited to, such topics and issues as:

- Refining models of language standardization: what is problematic with existing models of standardization? Do they adequately account for multilingual and non-Western contexts? In which ways might these models be refined?
- Processes of language standardization 'from above' and 'from below': who are the agents for language standardization processes and what are their motivations? What is the relationship between official language regulation, 'top-down' policy and everyday 'bottom-up' linguistic practices in the context of language standardization?
- Transnational and global standards: can a standard language truly be pluralistic? Which issues arise from having institutions in different nation-states regulating the standards of the same language?
- Authority and legitimacy: what are the influences from descriptive and prescriptive works on language standardization? How important is a literary tradition to the development of a national standard? Alternatively, what about the role of non-standard language in literary texts? To what extent can non-standard varieties have social prestige?
- Language policy, planning and acceptance: how can we tackle the complexities of the relationship between language legislation, standardization, linguistic rights and linguistic equality? What are the factors determining whether a standard is accepted or rejected, especially with regard to new speakers and contested processes of standardization?

- Education and norms: how are standard languages taught in plurilingual contexts, especially where linguistic practices blur the boundaries between languages? How are the teaching of standards and norms affected by growing demands for mobility in a global economy?
- Reforms and assessment: what are the impact and scope of linguistic reforms (for example regarding orthography) in relation to norms and standards? What are the influences of language teaching and language testing on shaping standards and norms, especially with regard to the assessment of standard languages at a global level?
- Borderlands and boundaries: what happens in cases where there are standard languages without a state? What are key factors in the standardization of creoles? How do national language policy and reforms affect the standardization of minority languages in a nation-state?
- Endangerment and revitalization: what does language standardization mean for language revitalization? Do standard languages assist the maintenance of endangered languages or contribute towards their decline?
- Beyond traditional standardization: how do 'new media' contribute to the standardization of languages, for example crowd sourcing and online dictionaries? Which changes do these media introduce to the traditional processes of standardization? How effective are existing ideas and theories of language standardization for the analysis of standards for sign languages? What is the impact of emerging urban multicultural youth varieties on standard language? To what extent are European standard languages undergoing processes of destandardization in late modernity?

Wendy Ayres-Bennett, John Bellamy