

Call for contributions – Colloquium on  
**Discursive Approaches to Language Policy**

Colloquium organisers: Elisabeth Barakos, Vienna University of Economics and Business; Johann W Unger, Lancaster University

The proposed colloquium approaches the conference theme of language/time/space by taking language policy as an entry point. We would like to gather contributions that have something to say about language policy and planning, in the broadest possible sense, with a particular focus on discursive approaches, i.e. close textual, contextual and socio-historical analysis of language policies from a critical perspective. By critical, we mean adopting a problem-oriented approach, questioning what is taken for granted, indicating problematic discursive practices, challenging dominant ideologies and normative assumptions and offering suggestions and alternatives to improve communicative practices and their wider social implications.

The aim of this colloquium, then, is to bring together scholars who are interested in the discursive construction of language policies and their social effects, be they material (in terms of access to resources in particular spaces) or symbolic (in terms of identity politics and language attitudes, and how they change over time) or a conflation of the two. This will allow us to address the overarching conference theme (language/time/space) but also to connect to several themes that are currently resonating more widely within the field of sociolinguistics, namely language in relation to globalisation and the neoliberalised global economy, the global vs. the local and glocalisation. To this, we would also add a methodological aim: to examine closely what can be gained by bringing together language policy and critical discourse studies, and also what challenges this combination gives rise to.

Contributions that interrogate how language policies, as mechanisms of intervention and means of inclusion and exclusion, shape the valuation of some languages and their users over others or that give voice to the views of affected or disadvantaged groups of language users, for instance through ethnographic fieldwork, would be particularly welcome. In line with the general conference policy, we ask that proposed contributions consist of “original and unpublished work that is not yet available to the research community”.

If you feel you have a contribution to make to this colloquium, please get in touch with the organisers by email ([elisabeth.barakos@wu.ac.at](mailto:elisabeth.barakos@wu.ac.at), [j.unger@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:j.unger@lancaster.ac.uk)) with a brief expression of interest and submit a 250-word abstract by May 31st, 2013. Final decisions will be sent to authors by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013. We will then submit the colloquium proposal to the Sociolinguistics Symposium organisers in August.