

Call for journal submissions for a special issue

LANGUAGE POLICY BEYOND THE STATE?

Editors:

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Language policy analysis in the 21-century offers dynamic potential for understanding society and social developments. As Jernudd and Nekvapil (2012) argue, language policy—in its creation and effect—is in the deepest sense a social policy; planning language is planning societies. But, what is meant by language, policy, and, collectively, language policy? The state remains a major source of legitimate power, and language policy continues to be understood as interventions of a state. Yet, increasingly open borders, the internationalization of education, and transnational labor mobility raise questions about the form and shape language policy beyond and across state borders and the relevance of the state in these moments of lived language-policy. Regional geopolitical developments and movements and different levels of power practices have also called into question the reach and influence of the state. This collection strives to contribute to the current, vibrant efforts to reconsider and reexamine the direction and approach of language policy analysis within and across the borders of one state—Estonia. The organizers of the special issue view Estonia-related language policy as situated within a geographic, political, socio-historical and cultural constellation. The policy constellation of Estonia is highlighted and informed by connections with Baltic, Nordic, E.U. and other post-Soviet states. Insights from the social sciences and humanities, using a range of methods, are crucial for this endeavour to examine language policy beyond the state. New methodological and conceptual approaches to language policy (e.g., ethnography, linguistic landscape, discourse analysis, language governance, ecology of language) offer fresh paths to probe the multilayered nature of language policy and to take research in promising directions.

The organizers of this volume invite potential contributors to (re)consider language policy specifically in within and beyond the Baltic States with particular (but not exclusive) attention to Estonia. Beyond a simple geographic focus, Estonia serves as a vibrant space to analyze language policy at the crossroads of overlapping institutional, national and regional frameworks (e.g., post-imperial and post-Soviet legacies, and other path dependencies, newly adopted EU policies and practices) and historical moments. Moreover, language policy in and across state borders offers a rich context for examining language policy as it concerns dominance, recognized and invisible minorities, migration and mobility shifts, and new group identities.

Single or multi-authored papers touching on any of the above points are welcome for submission. Additional manuscripts might focus on the following themes and perspectives:

- Challenges to disciplinary perspectives on language policy
- Family language policies especially in transnational or interethnic families
- Language policy in institutional settings (e.g. basic and secondary schools, higher education, multinational companies)
- New methodologies in researching language policy
- Language policy in cross-border settings (e.g. Russian diaspora in Estonia in comparison with Lithuania and Latvia; Estonian diasporas in Finland and Sweden; policies and practices across Finno-Ugric peoples)
- Language policy analysis as nested in political frameworks (e.g. democratic orientations, Soviet occupation, political “transition,” etc.)
- Language policy as an economic and/or social policy of (re)distribution, (re)production and incentivizing of resources, values, etc.
- Understandings of language policy through the state and/or region (e.g. Europe, Scandinavia, Baltic States, FSU)

All papers will undergo full peer review. Those interested in contributing should submit an abstract (300-500 words) to the guest editors of the thematic issue Maarja Siiner (maarja.siiner@ut.ee), Kadri Koreinik (kadri.koreinik@ut.ee), and Kara D. Brown (brownk25@mailbox.sc.edu) by 15 June 2014. After an initial abstract selection process, authors will be invited to submit full papers for double-blind peer review by 1 October 2014.