

***Interested in studying language policy, heritage language education, and/or critical historiography?***

Then we encourage you to apply to OISE's Language & Literacy Education graduate program and to York University's Applied Linguistics graduate program, where you can collaborate on the ***Heritage Languages Program in Ontario*** (HLP) research project.

**About the study**

The HLP project is a critical historiography of an Ontario policy supporting heritage language education. The policy was first implemented in 1977. It represents one of the first major language education initiatives in the wake of federal policy-making regarding official bilingualism and multiculturalism in 1969 and 1971, respectively. However, various stipulations in the HLP, which remain in place to this day, have relegated heritage language education to the margins of school life. A series of four bills was proposed in the provincial legislature between 1978 and 1993 to strengthen heritage language education; each of them failed.

This study creates a genealogy of this policy to better understand how language education policy regulates inequality in multilingual contexts such as Ontario. The study asks: What were the discursive and material conditions in 1970s Ontario in which "heritage languages" emerged as a social problem, and which produced the HLP as a policy solution? How did those same conditions define which individuals and communities would be included as legitimate policy actors and which would not? What were the conditions that regulated interactions among policy actors? How did the HLP affect extant inequalities among official, minority, Indigenous, immigrant, and signed languages in Ontario?

Data collection to date has focused on Ministry of Education archival records, as well as on Ontario Teachers' Federation papers. Also, we have collected historical media reports on the policy from two major Anglophone newspapers. We will expand data collection to include archival records from Toronto-area school boards, additional teachers' unions, individual politicians involved with the HLP, and community and activist groups who lobbied both for and against the policy. We will also create oral histories with individuals from each of these policy-related communities, and expand collection of historical media reports to include community newspapers in other languages.

**Funding opportunities**

All full-time PhD students at OISE receive a funding package that includes Graduate Assistantship positions. There will be at least one GA-ship supporting this project. Please note that funding for international applicants (i.e., applicants who are not Canadian citizens or do not have Permanent Resident status in Canada) is extremely competitive.

We have applied for external funding to support this project. If successful, we will use this funding to create Research Assistantship positions at both York and OISE to support this project. RA-ships are paid an hourly rate and provide graduate students with additional research experience and pay over and above their funding package.

For further information on this project, feel free to contact us directly: Jeff Bale, Associate Professor, OISE, at [jeff.bale@utoronto.ca](mailto:jeff.bale@utoronto.ca), and Eve Haque, Associate Professor, York, at [ehaque@yorku.ca](mailto:ehaque@yorku.ca).

### **How to apply**

For more information on OISE's LLE program, please visit <http://cmsnew.oise.utoronto.ca/llephd/Home.html>. The application deadline is **November 15, 2016**.

For more information on York's Languages & Linguistics program, please visit <http://lal.gradstudies.yorku.ca/how-to-apply/>. The application deadline is **December 16, 2016**.

In the statement of intent, be sure to mention this project specifically, along with any previous academic, research, or professional experience you've had in the topics it addresses or the methods it uses.