

Workshop ID : 49

Workshop Duration : Workshop - 1 Day

Workshop Title : **Hostility in language: Other perspectives on multilingualism**

Workshop Leader : **Anne Storch** and **Nico Nassenstein** (University of Cologne)

This workshop aims at complementing prevalent sociolinguistic research on multilingual language practices, which has contributed to highlight the agency of speakers, diversity and fluidity of repertoires in mobile contexts, and the multimodality and creativity inherent in language (e.g., Blommaert 2011, Blommaert & Backus 2011, Thurlow & Jaworski 2010). In the proposed workshop, the focus will be on post-colonial contexts and settings saliently characterized by processes of globalization and the results of imperialism, especially in interactions at mass tourism sites. The workshop is intended to provide a closer look at the practices and semiotics that surround multilingualism as something that is enforced upon speakers rather than simply embraced by them. For example, performances of subaltern actors working at mass tourism sites may include the usage of tourist languages, which is not seen as artful mastery of a repertoire but as an unpleasant necessity in order to survive economically. Other examples can involve the muting of one's own previously used languages in order to conceal one's illegal and undocumented migratory background, and the acquisition of a different multilingual repertoire (Phipps 2007).

Such – often ‘invisible’ and negative – aspects of multilingualism and performances of linguistic diversity have been addressed in critical texts concerned with postcolonial theory. In her work on *[Not like a Native Speaker: On] Linguaging as a Postcolonial Experience* (2014), Rey Chow mentions that for the colonized having to learn a colonial language without the opposite also happening remains a violent experience, an argument earlier made by Frantz Fanon (1963): mastery of language affords remarkable power. Language spoken but not ‘owned’, used in a ‘broken’ form, or marginalized language practices are put in the focus of the discussion here in an attempt to highlight the power of language in post-colonial and globalized contexts, where speakers adapt to practices they regard as a burden rather than an opportunity, and conceive language as part of work rather than pleasure or identification. Examples would be “grassroots practices” of tourist guides, emblematic catch phrases used by hustlers at beachers, or multilingual performances by sex workers in touristic encounters.

Consequently, a sociolinguistic perspective on linguistic diversity in socially unequal contexts stands in the focus. We are interested in papers on topics such as the following ones:

- tourism and subalternity: mocking, insulting and marginalizing in tourist languages
- multilingualism and gender inequality, creative genderized and stigmatized styles
- ‘broken language’ and ‘broken biography’: heteroglossic practices in tourism contexts
- silencing of repertoires: undocumented people working in mass tourism

Selected References:

Blommaert, Jan. 2011. Language and superdiversity. *Diversities* 13,2.

[<http://www.unesco.org/shs/diversities/vol13/issue2/art1>] (accessed 15 January 2017)

Blommaert, Jan & Ad Backus. 2011. Repertoires revisited: Knowing language in superdiversity. *Working Papers in Urban Language and Literacies* 67.

[https://www.academia.edu/6365319/WP67_Blommaert_and_Backus_2011._Repertoires_revisited_Knowing_language_in_superdiversity] (accessed 15 January 2017).

Chow, Rey. 2014. *Not Like a Native Speaker: On Linguaging as a Postcolonial Experience*. New York: Columbia University Press.

Fanon, Frantz. 1963. *The Wretched of the Earth*. New York: Grove Press.

Phipps, Alison. 2007. *Learning the Arts of Survival. Linguaging, Tourism, Life*. Clevedon: Channel.

Thurlow, Crispin & Adam Jaworski. 2010. *Tourism Discourse: Language and Global Mobility*. Basingstoke

