

Workshop ID : 5

Workshop Duration : Workshop - 1 Day

Workshop Title : **Studying the studies – A systematic review of research on bilingualism and its effects**

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Research on bilingualism has come a long way since the initial studies on bilingualism were published in the mid 20th century, mostly describing its potential drawbacks. The pendulum has now, however, swung the other way, with most studies appearing to present almost exclusively positive effects. Yet, those findings are not always conclusive, given the substantial number of compounding factors and methodological limitations of the field. In addition, conference papers reporting on negative or no effects seldom get published in the scholarly literature.

While not denying that there are many positive effects of bilingualism, we feel that it is also crucial to demonstrate the objectivity of the research field, in particular given the importance of this topic for educational policy makers and teacher education in the current globalised world.

This workshop aims at exploring the body of knowledge on the cognitive, social-affective and/or economic effects of bilingualism across the lifespan, as generated through scientific research. We invite researchers who have conducted meta-analyses and systematic quantitative literature reviews on such effects of bilingualism to share and discuss their findings.

Moreover, we are interested in in-depth discussions on methodological issues that on the one hand may have impacted on the research studies included in the systematic reviews and that on the other hand stem from the way meta-analyses and systematic literature reviews are carried out (e.g. lack of clear terminology, categorisation difficulties, potential publication bias).