

The Multilingual Mind: lecture series on multilingualism across disciplines

Winter Semester 2021/2022
Tuesdays, 17.00 - 18.30 CET
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Applied linguistics in minoritised language contexts: three case studies from Wales

Abstract

In this lecture I present three applied linguistics projects which are not only situated in, but also motivated by, the linguistic environment of Wales, a bilingual country in the UK. The Welsh language is classed as ‘vulnerable’ in the UNESCO taxonomy of endangered languages; aspects of policy, infrastructure and culture lend some linguistic security, and the Welsh Government’s ambition to double the number of Welsh speakers to 1 million by 2050 has generated new engagement with applied linguists. In partnership with colleagues, practitioners and community members, I have worked on a number of projects relating to pedagogy, language resources, and better understanding the bilingual lexicon. Methodologies we employed include word association experiments, corpus creation, practitioner surveys and scrutiny of research literature and policy reports. I will discuss both our headline findings and the more implicit messages from our work, and consider how these might inform continuing research into bilingualism and minoritised language communities.