

(New) Speakers in multilingual contexts: towards a sociolinguistics of the speaker

5:30pm-7:30pm Monday 3rd April, 2016, Center of Applied Linguistics, University College London, Room 780.

Guest Speakers

Prof. Bernadette O'Rourke, Heriot Watt University
Prof. Joan Pujolar, Universitat Oberta de Catalunya
Prof. Li Wei, UCL Institute of Education, University College London
Prof. Jean Marc Dewaele, Birkbeck, University of London
Prof. Celia Roberts, King's College London
Prof. Mike Baynham, University of Leeds

We would like to invite you to attend a public round-table discussion entitled “(New) Speakers in multilingual contexts: towards a sociolinguistics of the speaker”.

The roundtable is part of a larger discussion taking place within our European network on New Speakers in a Multilingual Europe within the intergovernmental framework for European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST). In our Action we have been using the “new speaker” label as a lens through which to understand the linguistic practices of multilingual speakers who, by engaging with languages other than their “native” or “national” language(s), need to cross existing social boundaries, re-evaluate their own levels of linguistic competence and creatively (re)structure their social practices to adapt to new and overlapping linguistic spaces.

We are now entering the final stage of our Action and we are organizing this event to reflect on our thinking to date. The purpose of the round-table would be to engage in a conversation about

- how the concept has evolved
- how useful it is or not as a means of understanding the challenges of current sociopolitical changes on different types of speakers
- how and under which conditions the concept enables us to engage with non-academic publics about what it means to be multilingual in a contemporary European context

The roundtable will be organized in two parts: The guest speakers will first have the opportunity to engage with the concept and the questions we raise. Then we would like to open the discussion to the present public.

Should you have any questions, please contact Dr Alfonso Del Percio a.percio@ucl.ac.uk.