

Decolonizing approaches to language diversity and reclamation

Convenor: Justyna Olko

(Center for Research and Practice in Cultural Continuity, University of Warsaw,
jolko@al.uw.edu.pl)

The growing impact of decolonising approaches and Indigenous epistemologies has begun to transform the field of linguistics and other disciplines, highlighting the importance of more relational and emic approaches to different forms of diversity in local ecologies. An essential dimension of this paradigm is the need to recognize and more systematically include perspectives from the Global South and to transform studies from the Global North by disentangling them from the legacies of nation-state ideologies and narrowly conceived academic disciplines. This Focus Stream will include papers that thematically, theoretically and methodologically contribute to decolonising and deglobalising linguistic diversity, to better understanding multilingual ecologies, and to the protection and fostering of diversity and multilingualism. We aim to address issues that have been underrepresented in linguistic research, including the intersections of linguistic diversity and decolonisation studies.

Paper proposals dealing with the following themes are especially welcome:

- Indigenous/ethnic minority emic perspectives and contributions to decolonising the understanding of linguistic diversity
- Linguistic diversity in the context of the legacies of colonisation and re/neocolonisation
- The invisibility and/or fragmentation of linguistic diversity
- Decolonising perspectives on societal and individual multilingualism as well as the evolution of multilingual ecologies in light of changing social environments and norms, the growing influence of external and invasive colonial cultures, and the introduction of modern technologies in computer-mediated communication
- Equitable practices in linguistic fieldwork and documentation in multilingual communities from Indigenous/local perspectives
- Decolonising approaches to linguistic revitalization, revival and continuity
- Links between linguistic diversity and biodiversity

The Focus Stream welcomes scholars who are recognized experts in their respective fields, as well as those originating in Indigenous/ethnic minority communities; it strongly encourages co-authorships that combine emic and etic perspectives; and it strives to achieve an equitable representation of presenters with regard to their geographical provenance, gender, and career stage.