



HUMA3060 Language and Migration

Instructor: Professor James Simpson	Office: Academic Building Room 3386
Email: hmjsimpson@ust.hk	
Teaching Assistant: Jennifer Li Ge glibm@connect.ust.hk	
Class times: Tuesdays and Thursdays, 12.00-13.20	Office hours: Wednesday 11.30-13.00
Class location: 4619	

Course description

This course will stimulate your thinking and broaden your knowledge about language in relation to migration in the contemporary multilingual world. Ours is a world which is a product of mobility of people, information and products across physical and virtual boundaries. Languages themselves are changed through migration. Within a context of linguistic diversity, language is central to the organization of institutions, access to information, the exchange of goods and the ability to communicate. On this course you will investigate how language is used by people on the move, and by those with whom they interact, in areas including health, education, the law and the workplace. You will explore how language practices are shaped by face-to-face and mediated encounters and by the constraints of political and institutional contexts. Key questions are: What languages and forms of communication get used, when, why and where? What linguistic factors enable and limit access for migrants to services and resources? What are the consequences?

Course ILOs

- Summarise key concepts in the field of language and migration
- Explain how language use in diverse societies relates to interaction and institutional practice
- Explain how beliefs about language use can promote or inhibit social justice
- Critique relevant approaches to the analysis of language use in contexts of mobility
- Create, confidently and critically, academic arguments within the field of language and migration

Reading

We will refer to these books:

Canagarajah, S. (2017) *The Routledge Handbook of Migration and Language*. Routledge.

Horner, K., and Weber, J.-J. (2018) *Introducing Multilingualism: A Social Approach* (2nd ed.). Routledge.

Piller, I. (2016) *Linguistic Diversity and Social Justice*. Oxford University Press.

These books are available from the HKUST library as e-books.

A full list of reading is on Canvas.

Grading Policy and Course Requirements

Grading Policy follows HKUST's default approach

Excellent: A+, A, A-; Good: B+, B, B-; Satisfactory: C+, C, C-; Marginal D; Fail: F.

Assignment Submission

Assignments need to be submitted by 23:59 (midnight) on the due dates.

Assignment

Personal reflection (30%): Following weeks 3, 6 and 10, you will write a personal reflection of 500 words in the form of an asynchronous discussion forum post on one of the topics addressed in the lectures. Deadlines 29 Sept, 20 Oct, 17 Nov.

Written assignment (60%): Choose a setting familiar to you, e.g. an institution, a classroom, a city space, a workplace, an online space.

- How has migration shaped language use in this setting?
- What factors allow or constrain language use in this setting, and why?
- How does this promote or inhibit social justice in the setting? (2500 words, deadline 8 Dec).

Participation in class and in online discussion (10%).

Session-by-session outline

Wk		Topic	Outline
1	Tues 5 Sept	Language and migration (Concepts I)	The sessions in this introductory week provide a framework for the study of migration and language. Key concepts are globalization, migration and language. We will outline course aims, objectives, workload and expectations of students.
	Thur 7 Sept		
<p><i>Reading</i> Horner and Weber (2018) Chapter 3 What is a Language?</p>			
2	Tues 12 Sept	The sociolinguistics of mobility (Concepts II)	This week we cover concepts relating to the study of language in society when contexts and people are mobile. Key concepts are superdiversity, repertoire and translanguaging.
	Thur 14 Sept		
<p><i>Reading</i> Blommaert, J. and Backus, A. (2011). Repertoires revisited: 'Knowing language' in superdiversity. <i>Working Papers in Urban Language & Literacies</i> Paper 67.</p>			
3	Tues 19 Sept	Linguistic diversity and ideology (Concepts III)	What people say and write (their discourse) is informed by their ideologies. This week we look at discourses about linguistic diversity in policy and in the media, and attempt to understand how language ideologies and practices contribute to social exclusion.
	Thur 21 Sept		
<p><i>Reading</i> Piller, I. (2016) Chapter 2 Linguistic diversity and stratification.</p>			
4	Tues 26 Sept	Diasporic spaces, multilingual landscapes (Space and Place I)	The linguistic landscape of contemporary cities can tell us a great deal about the roles of, and attitudes towards, language in multilingual societies. This week we will explore the linguistic landscape of superdiverse Hong Kong, relating this to studies of other cities.
	Thur 28 Sept		
<p><i>Reading</i> Lou, J. J. (2017) Spaces of consumption and senses of place: A geosemiotic analysis of three markets in Hong Kong. <i>Social Semiotics</i> 27(4).</p>			

5	Tues 3 Oct	Transnationalism and virtual space (Space and Place II)	Technological developments enable transnational virtual spaces beyond the boundaries of nation states. We examine the implications of online communication for language, identity and belonging. Thursday 5 Oct: Guest session (LI Yiran, HKUST)
	Thur 5 Oct		
<i>Reading</i> Tagg, C. and Lyons, A. (2021) Polymedia repertoires of networked individuals: A day-in-the-life approach. <i>Pragmatics and Society</i> 12(5), 725-755.			
6	Tue 10 Oct	Displacement, asylum and immigration (Space and Place III)	Some migration is associated with the collapse of nation states, and the consequent needs of refugees and other forced migrants. This week we consider how language is problematized in times and places of disruption, and how the study of language can support the search for solutions. Thur 12 Oct: Guest session (Sari Pöyhönen, Jyväskylä University)
	Thur 12 Oct		
<i>Reading</i> Callaghan, J., Yemane, T. and Baynham, M. (2019) Steps to Settlement: A case study. In M. Cooke and R. Peutrell (eds.) <i>Brokering Britain Educating Citizens</i> . Multilingual Matters.			
7	Tue 17 Oct	Migration, language and the law (Contexts I)	Language is intertwined with the law, and for migrants, its use in immigration law is of concern. This week we examine how language tests and other tools are used for immigration purposes.
	Thur 19 Oct		
<i>Reading</i> Blackledge, A. (2009) "As a Country We Do Expect": The further extension of language testing regimes in the United Kingdom. <i>Language Assessment Quarterly</i> 6/1, 6-16			
8	Tue 24 Oct	Work, enterprise and (un)skilled migration (Contexts II)	The focus is upon diasporic spaces where work is the concern. We study enterprise, labor migration, job interviews and the informal economy, examining issues of discrimination. Thur 26 Oct: Guest session (Christine Vicera, HKUST)
	Thur 26 Oct		
<i>Reading</i> Lorente, B.P. (2012) The making of workers of the world: Language and the labor brokerage state. In A. Duchene & M. Heller (Eds.), <i>Language in late capitalism: Pride and Profit</i> (pp. 183-206). Routledge.			
9	Tue 31 Oct	Health and services (Contexts III)	We study medical consultation and the role of interpreting. We also cover issues where language, migration and global health emergencies intersect. <i>Preparation for the assignment outline submission.</i>
	Thur 2 Nov		
<i>Reading</i> Zheng, Y. (2020) Mobilizing foreign language students for multilingual crisis translation in Shanghai. <i>Multilingua</i> 39/5, 587-595.			

10	Tue 7 Nov	Education (Contexts IV)	We study i) education and training provision for adult migrants, either on arrival or ongoing; and ii) the language issues involved in the education of the children of migrants in mainstream and in complementary schooling. Thur 9 Nov: Guest session (Jennifer LI Ge, HKUST)
	Thur 9 Nov		
	<u>Reading</u> Simpson, J. (2019) Supporting bilingualism in first generation adults. In A. De Houwer & L. Ortega (eds.) <i>The Cambridge Handbook of Bilingualism</i> . Cambridge University Press.		
11	Tue 14 Nov	Ethnography, narrative and interactional sociolinguistics (Approaches I)	The first of two weeks on the study of approaches to language and migration. The focus is on approaches used to study language and migration, from the migrant's (insider) perspective.
	Thur 16 Nov	Researching translanguaging	Thur 16 Nov: Guest session (Navigating Belonging team, HKUST)
	<u>Reading</u> Bradley, J. and J. Simpson (2020) Translanguaging across space and place: Concept and context. In C. Mar-Molinero (ed.) <i>Researching Language in Urban Contexts</i> . Multilingual Matters.		
12	Tue 21 Nov	Literacy and critical discourse analysis (Approaches II)	Here, the focus is on approaches commonly used to analyse the literacy practices and media / policy / legal discourses around language and migration. <i>Preparation / Q&A for the assignment.</i>
	Thur 23 Nov	Assignment preparation	
	<u>Reading</u> tbc		
13	Tue 28 Nov	Assignment preparation	<i>Preparation / Q&A for the assignment.</i>
	Thur 30 Nov	Review; looking ahead	A drop-in session to review of the key themes of the course, issues for further attention on the horizon.