

RC50 Panel descriptions
IPSA World Congress, Istanbul 2016

Language regimes and citizenship regimes: bridging the gap

Convener: Dr. Núria Garcia (nuria.garcia@sciencespo.fr)
Centre d'études européennes, Sciences Po

Recent scholarship on language policy has emphasized the relation between language regimes and state traditions (Cardinal and Sonntag, 2015). The concept of language regime used in this research builds on the research on citizenship regimes developed by scholars such as Jane Jenson and Rainer Bauböck. However, the relation between language regimes and citizenship regimes has so far not been addressed systematically by either of these literatures.

In order to bridge the gap between specialists of language policy on the one hand and the literature on citizenship on the other, this panel seeks to analyze how a given language regime shapes and constrains conceptions of citizenship and the actual exercise of citizenship, and vice versa. Going beyond associating language to ethnic or civic conceptions of citizenship, it invites papers that address the concrete relation between language regimes and one or more dimensions of citizenship: papers may focus among others on the diffusion of language testing for the acquisition of citizenship status, the obstacle or opportunity language regimes entailed for the actual exercise of citizenship rights, the language policies implied by multicultural citizenship regimes, etc. Authors may adopt a theoretical or empirical approach and use a case study or cross-national/regional comparative perspective.

Justice for Linguistic Minorities: Theories and Practices

Conveners: Stéphanie Chouinard (University of Ottawa, Canada: schou015@uottawa.ca) and Rémi Léger (Simon Fraser University, Canada: rleger@sfu.ca)

Over the past twenty-five years, a vast scholarship has explored issues of justice, equality and democracy in diverse societies. This panel aims to consider how linguistic minorities have been addressed in this context. What does justice require in the case of linguistic minorities? Are the normative guidelines on offer satisfactory? Have (liberal) societies responded favourably to the demands of linguistic minorities? Are there 'best practices' to draw from and emulate elsewhere? Do we need to further normative reflection on these and related issues? Overall, the panel will critically assess existing normative theories and state practices in relation to linguistic minorities in order to clarify the requirements of linguistic justice.

Language and Party Politics

Convener: Jean-François Dupré (jfdupre@connect.hku.hk)

Language politics has permeated the political scene of many multilingual democracies, especially in regions that have witnessed regionalist and secessionist movements. While studies of identity and nationalism in such contexts abound, few have investigated the relationship between language

and party politics proper. How do language conflict and demolinguistic configurations influence parties' strategies, their agendas, and their linguistic ideologies? Are parties' stance on language recognition consistent with their politico-economic ideology? Under what conditions do linguistic interests become electoral stakes? Is there a relationship between types of party systems and types of language regimes, and how do party systems influence the dynamics of language politics? This panel invites contributions on all aspects of the relationship between language and party politics, including but not restricted to electoral politics and campaigning, democratization and party system formation, and party ideologies and strategies. Papers with a comparative and/or quantitative focus are particularly solicited, but single-case, qualitative contributions are also welcome.

Language and Political Science

Convener: Yael Peled (yael.a.peled@gmail.com)

Language is a fundamental element of political life. It is intimately linked to questions of power relations, social interaction, group membership and identity in an irreducibly linguistically-diverse world. Despite this, however, language remains a relatively marginal topic in political science as a whole, certainly in comparison with topics such as gender, race or religion. Current work in the area is largely dominated by normative analytical political theory, with significantly less input from other branches of political theory (both normative and descriptive), as well as from comparative politics, public policy and international relations. As a result, current attempts to offer a broader and more integrated analysis of language in political science necessarily remain sporadic, fragmented and limited.

The "Political Science of Language" panel aims to bring together political scientists interested in language, from all subfields of the discipline (e.g. political theory, political history, comparative politics, political communication, public policy, international relations). By doing so, the goal of the panel is to initiate and facilitate an intra-disciplinary discussion on language in political science, and its role and place in contemporary political research as a whole, beyond the boundaries of particular subfields.

The Commodification of Language(s)

Panel Convener: Peter Ives (University of Winnipeg, p.ives@uwinnipeg.ca)

While political scientists have understandably focused on the role of states and government policy concerning the politics of languages, this has led to less attention within language politics scholarship on the extension of global capitalism or globalization and its implication for language politics. One of the ways this is being addressed is through the notion of the commodification of language, an increasing awareness and interest in how languages become not only specific skills within the global market place, but the teaching of languages is an important industry including the selling of language instruction, accent transformation, and niche learning such as 'business English.' Scholars have focused on the commodification of language within the call-centre industry, tourism and niche product labelling and branding. Within the language teaching industry a host of products from textbooks, dictionaries, computer programmes including language apps, are the result of the commodification of language. This panel aims to include interdisciplinary and

transdisciplinary work which may include sociolinguistics, economics, education studies and cultural studies to highlight the diverse and important ways in which linguistic commodification helps us understand the politics of language and a growing context in which language policy and state action is conducted within.

The Politics of English Language Education

Peter Ives (University of Winnipeg, p.ives@uwinnipeg.ca)

Where language education has usually been addressed within frameworks of nation-building and language regimes, the preponderance of English language education is increasingly conducted within education systems where English is not an official nor dominant language. From Mexico to China, in the last decades, national education systems have included more hours of English, made it more mandatory and started it at a younger age. Columbia, for example, has adopted a policy aimed at high school graduates being ‘bilingual’ in Spanish and English by 2020. The policy notes that English is not being taught as a ‘foreign’ language but a global one. To what extent are such policies a continuation and expansion of ideas of ‘modernization’ and nation-building within the context of globalization and ‘global English’? To what extent do they indicate a break or reversal of the classic connection between language standardization, citizenship and national identity? This panel aims to bring together research conducted in a variety of disciplines including but not limited to political science in order to address these broad questions.

Linguistic Justice from the Ground

Huw LEWIS, Aberystwyth University (hhl@aber.ac.uk)

Rémi LÉGER, Simon Fraser University (rleger@sfu.ca)

Across the globe, heated debates take place over how states should respond to minority languages and linguistic diversity. In response, political theorists have formulated normative theories intended to guide elected officials and policymakers. In this context, the general trend has been to discuss normative frameworks (liberalism, communitarianism, republicanism) and political values (freedom, equality or democracy) and then move on to reflect on their implications for given contexts or cases. This panel first aims to reflect on the merits and limitations of such ‘top down’ approaches. In this regard, we welcome papers that critically engage with recent scholarship on linguistic justice and their general approaches to normative theorizing. The second aim of this panel is to develop alternative ‘bottom up’ approaches to linguistic justice. We are interested in papers that depart from specific debates in particular locations (e.g. regarding issues such as education provision, media services, employment practices or civil society relations) to derive broader moral guidelines, but also theoretical reflections on how to reconcile norms and principles with language policy and planning.

Language Politics in Africa

Convener: Ericka A. Albaugh, Bowdoin College (ealbaugh@bowdoin.edu)

Africa's rich linguistic landscape presents dangers and opportunities, depending on one's perspective: some see perilous fragmentation, while others see prospects for maintaining diversity. This panel solicits papers that address the relationship of language to contemporary politics in Africa. This topic coincides with the theme of inequality in many ways. A poor education generally might exclude one from learning official languages and therefore from political participation. A lack of opportunity for mother tongue education might reduce political efficacy or genuine learning. From an economic perspective, facility in administrative languages opens civil service jobs, while knowledge of a lingua franca provides access to regional trading networks. There are many ways that language capabilities reproduce inequality and many ways that policies about language can influence opportunities. Inequality can sometimes lead to violence. This panel seeks papers that illuminate the motivations behind official policies toward language groups in Africa as well as their effects. It also encourages papers that explore choices of individuals to learn multiple languages and the fluidity of language boundaries. And it welcomes those that investigate prospects for mitigation of language conflicts.

Linguistic Diversity and Economic Development

Conveners: Selma K. Sonntag (Selma.Sonntag@humboldt.edu) and Kyoko Motobayashi (motobayashi.kyoko@ocha.ac.jp)

Political scientists and economists have long argued that linguistic diversity and economic growth are negatively correlated in developing countries. Their statistical and econometric modeling of the correlation involves assumptions about language that yield independent and exogenous variables. Most prominent recently are measurements of ethnolinguistic fractionalization and linguistic distance. However, unlike the productive debate between political theorists and applied linguists on language rights, there has been little dialogue between political scientists and linguists on the validity of language variables and underlying assumptions for the study of the relationship between linguistic diversity and economic development. The purpose of this panel is to bring together political scientists who work on language issues with language experts and linguists in order to commence an interdisciplinary dialogue.

Language Regimes: Case Studies and Theoretical Understandings

Convener: Selma K. Sonntag (Selma.Sonntag@humboldt.edu)

The concept of "language regime" has gained considerable attention among language policy experts in recent times. However, the concept remains under-theorized in many social science disciplines. In political science, for example, language regime functions differently in rational choice analyses compared to historical institutionalism. This panel seeks to further the use of language regime as an analytical concept through case studies of language regimes as well as more theoretical studies.

Language Revitalisation and State Transformation

Conveners: Catrin EDWARDS, Aberystwyth University (cwe6@aber.ac.uk)

Elin ROYLES, Aberystwyth University (ear@aber.ac.uk)

Huw LEWIS, Aberystwyth University (hhl@aber.ac.uk)

Efforts to revitalize the prospects of minority languages are increasingly common across the world, including in a number of industrial Western democracies. Indeed, over the past few decades, revitalization efforts have gradually become more systematic and also more far-reaching in their scope, touching on a range of key social domains, including the family home, the education system, the media, the economy and civil society. Much of the literature that discusses such developments, and that seeks to gauge the conditions necessary for successful revitalization, tends to emphasise the importance of long-term state recognition and support for the minority language (Giles et al, 1977; Grenoble and Whaley, 2006; Spolsky, 2004; Tsunoda, 2005). Yet, such arguments tend to be advanced without any reflection on the significance of the current trend in ‘state transformation’ (Sørensen, 2004), which has led to governance structures becoming increasingly complex, incorporating a number of different levels and actors.

This panel aims to evaluate the extent to which the modern state still possesses the capacity to act as the central locus of successful language revitalization efforts. We welcome papers that consider the implications for language revitalization efforts of emerging trends such as ‘new governance’ and / or the regulatory state resulting in social regulation and service provision being based increasingly on complex networks of public, private and third sector actors. We also welcome papers that consider the impact of multi-level governance, in which political power has moved up towards supranational and international bodies, down towards regional governments. Papers may address these trends directly or by assessing their implications for specific policy areas.

Social Mobility, In-Migration and Minority Languages Communities

Conveners: Catrin EDWARDS, Aberystwyth University (cwe6@aber.ac.uk)

Elin ROYLES, Aberystwyth University (ear@aber.ac.uk)

Huw LEWIS, Aberystwyth University (hhl@aber.ac.uk)

While international migration as a global phenomenon is often linked to globalisation and changes on a macro scale, the impact of migratory patterns is also witnessed within minority language communities. Over the decades, this has led sub-state governments such as Catalonia and Quebec to implement language policies with the aim of linguistically integrating in-migrants. Often, these language policies have been formulated within a wider discussion on the role of the minority language in ensuring social integration and social cohesion amongst in-migrants. Nevertheless, in-migrants within minority language communities also feel the need to learn the language of the majority to fully participate in the labour market.

This panel explores the relationship between language policy and social mobility in minority language communities that have witnessed in-migration. This panel invites papers that examine how different sub-state governments address issues of social equality and mobility through the implementation of minority language policies, and the challenges they face in ensuring that in-

migrants adopt the minority language in addition to the language of the majority as the best route for social mobility and inclusion and economic equality.

Authors may adopt a theoretical or empirical approach and use a case study or cross-national/regional comparative perspective.

Politics of Official Language Policies

Convener: Amy H. Liu (amy.liu@austin.utexas.edu)

Policies involving a country's official language(s) are inherently political. They are the product of a political process; they also have political implications as to who has greater claim to the imagine community. This panel invites papers that examine the politics surrounding official language policies. Possible topics include – but are not limited to – the debates behind official language policies, the challenges of disseminating such languages in different sectors (e.g, education, bureaucracy, and workplace), and the consequences of such policies. We welcome papers that focus on any region/country and that employ different methodological approaches.

The Politics of Language and Regional Integration in Comparative Perspective

Convener: Till Burckhardt (Till.Burckhardt@unige.ch)

Regional organizations, established at continental or sub-continental level through multilateral international treaties, play an increasingly important role in global governance with implications on the national and global politics of language. On the one hand, the governance of these organizations requires the adoption of an own language regime and, on the other hand, it may affect the implementation of national language regimes due to the policies they enact or promote.

In the eye of these evolutions the panel seeks to compare the politics of language defined or promoted by different multilateral regional organizations in the world. The panels seeks contributions that highlight (i) the language regimes adopted by regional organizations, (ii) the implications of regional law for national language policies and (iii) the trends towards regional convergence in terms of language policy and planning.

Language Politics in Turkey

Convener: Selma K. Sonntag (Selma.Sonntag@humboldt.edu)

Language politics have featured prominently in modern Turkey, the host of the IPSA 2016 World Congress. Language planning was a central feature of the Kemalist modernization agenda in the early 20th century. More recently language rights for Kurdish speakers have become a politicized issue. This panel will focus on historical and contemporary issues of language politics in Turkey.