



Shifting Sands

SYMPOSIUM 2011 Perspectives on the changing face of languages education in the Asia-Pacific region

14-15 November 2011

As you may know, the Research Centre for Languages and Cultures hosts an annual symposium designed to stimulate discussion and debate on a variety of issues relating to language and languages education and to disseminate the often valuable and cutting edge insights the event showcases. The theme of this year's Symposium is Shifting sands: Perspectives on the changing face of languages education in the Asia-Pacific region, and we would be delighted if could join us for what promises to be a memorable two days.

As in previous years, we are fortunate indeed in being able to bring together this year a group of high-profile, internationally respected scholars. Invited speakers include:

Associate Professor Yuko Butler

Associate Professor Language and Literacy in Education, University of Pennsylvania

Associate Professor Cathie Elder

Director Language Testing Research Centre, University of Melbourne

Professor Alfred Huang

Special Envoy to China, Department of Trade & Economic Development

Professor Andy Kirkpatrick

Head of Department of Languages and Linguistics, Griffith University

Professor Joseph Lo Bianco

President of the Australian Academy of the Humanities and Prof. of Language and Literacy Education, University of Melbourne

Professor Stephen May

Prof. of Education, University of Auckland

Associate Professor Anne Pakir

Director International Relations Office, National University of Singapore

Professor Michael Singh

Centre for Educational research, University of Western Sydney

Dr Robyn Spence-Brown

Senior Lecturer, School of Languages, Cultures and Linguistics, Monash University

Professor Amy Tsui

Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President, Teaching and Learning; Chair Prof of Language and Education, University of Hong Kong

Emeritus Professor Andrew Watson

School of Economics, University of Adelaide; Ford Foundation Representative in Beijing

The following speakers from RCLC will also contribute

Dr Jonathan Crichton

Dr Michelle Kohler

Professor Tony Liddicoat

Dr Neil Murray

Associate Professor Angela Scarino

Andrew Scrimgeour

Places are limited and will be allocated to those who register first. Please email kate.loechel@unisa.edu.au for a registration form. Please note that there is no registration fee and lunches and refreshments will be provided. Participants will need to make their own arrangements for travel and accommodation.

We look forward very much to hearing from you and, we hope, welcoming you to the University of South Australia in November.

With all good wishes, Angela Scarino, Director RCLC and Neil Murray, Symposium Convenor

Research Centre for Languages and Cultures

University of South Australia

Symposium

Shifting sands: Perspectives on the changing face of languages education in the Asia-Pacific region

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The continuing globalisation of education, in tandem with migration trends and significant socio-economic developments in the Asia-Pacific region that have changed the geopolitical landscape, gives pause for thought concerning the evolving role of languages education in this part of the world. In particular, these things raise questions about how and on what basis governments and educational institutions are promoting both languages in general as well as specific languages, the degree of uptake by students, the way in which educators think about languages and design and deliver language curricula, and how languages taught in the region sit in relation to one another – and, most intriguingly perhaps, the role of English in relation to that of Asian languages.

This year's Symposium, then, has a distinctly regional focus and its three sub-themes have been chosen to allow for an expansive discussion of key issues and debates. As such it promises to be a particularly relevant and engaging event for those of us involved in languages education in the Asia-Pacific region.

The Symposium will be organised around two sub-themes as follows:

Sub-theme 1: The relationship between English and Asian languages

Sub-theme 1 promotes reflection on the relative state and status of Asian languages, both individually as well as collectively in relation to English. As such it particularly encourages comparative analyses. Welcome topics for presentation and discussion include:

- The symbiotic relationship between Asian languages and English
- Asian Englishes and the notion of English as a lingua franca
- Points of intersection and differentiation between Asian languages and English
- Early acquisition: English and Asian languages in primary school

Sub-theme 2: Dimensions of Teaching and Learning in the Asia-Pacific context

Sub-theme 2 has a broad pedagogical focus and offers an opportunity to consider the impact and implications of research and social and political perspectives on the teaching and learning of English and Asian languages. Welcome topics for presentation and discussion include:

- Pedagogies for primary, secondary and tertiary language learning
 - Multilingual pedagogies
 - English as a lingua franca
 - Curriculum design
 - Methods and materials
 - Assessment
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Draft program

DAY 1: <i>The relationship between English and Asian languages</i>		
9.30 – 10.00	Registration and coffee	
10.00 – 10.30	Opening of the Symposium	
SESSION 1		
10.30 – 11.00	Introduction	Associate Professor Angela Scarino
11.00 – 11.30	English as a Lingua Franca on campus: Cultural integration or segregation?	Professor Amy Tsui
11.30 – 12.00	The Torn Country: Reflections on English and Asian Languages, place and communication	Professor Joseph Lo Bianco
12.00 – 12.30	Paper 3	Associate Professor Anne Pakir
12.30 – 1.00	<i>Discussion</i>	
<i>Lunch</i>		
SESSION 2		
2.00 – 2.30	English as an Asian language? Nationalism, globalization and the role of English.	Professor Stephen May
2.30 – 3.00	Innovations in teaching Chinese to non-background speakers: Western Sydney's Research Oriented School Engaged Teacher Education Program	Professor Michael Singh
3.00 – 3.30	'Global Englishes': Some pedagogical reflections	Dr Jonathan Crichton & Dr Neil Murray
3.30 – 4.00	<i>Discussion</i>	
<i>Afternoon tea</i>		
5.00 – 6.30	PUBLIC FORUM <i>Languages in flux: the place of Chinese and English in the Asia-Pacific region</i>	Professor Andy Kirkpatrick Professor Alfred Huang Emeritus Professor Andrew Watson
DAY 2: <i>Dimensions of Teaching and Learning in the Asia-Pacific context</i>		
8.30 – 9.00	Coffee	
SESSION 3A		
9.00 – 9.15	Opening: Introduction to sub-theme	Professor Tony Liddicoat
9.15 – 9.45	The development of English as a lingua franca in Asia: implications for other languages	Professor Andy Kirkpatrick
9.45 – 10.15	Social economic disparities and early English education in East Asia	Associate Professor Yuko Butler
10.15 – 10.45	<i>Discussion</i>	
<i>Morning tea</i>		
SESSION 3B		
11.15 – 11.45	Describing student achievements in learning Asian languages in school educational settings	Associate Professor Angela Scarino & Associate Professor Cathie Elder
11.45 – 12.15	Dealing with 'Chinese Fever' - The challenge of Chinese teaching in the Australian classroom	Andrew Scrimgeour
12.15 – 12.45	<i>Discussion</i>	
<i>Lunch</i>		

SESSION 4

1.45 – 2.15	The language of Australia's nearest neighbour: issues and prospects	Dr Michelle Kohler
2.15 – 2.45	Is motivation the real issue? The role of educational structures in determining continuation of second language study at upper secondary and tertiary levels	Dr Robyn Spence-Brown
2.45 – 3.15	<i>Discussion</i>	
3.15 – 3.30	Summing-up of sub-theme 2	Professor Tony Liddicoat
3.30 – 4.00	Close of Symposium	