

## Language Acts and Worldmaking Debates



### Debate 2 Academic Session 2018/19: Gender Action with Peter Main (KCL), Beth Bramley (IoP) and Sandra Takei (KCL)

13<sup>th</sup> March, 6–7.15pm, Language Resources Centre, Room K-1.07.2, Level -1 (i.e. BASEMENT level), King's Building, King's College London, Strand, London, WC2R 2LS

Chair: Dr Ana de Medeiros, Director, Modern Language Centre, KCL

This term the Language Acts *Debates* series welcomes Peter Main (Head of Physics dept, KCL), Beth Bramley (Gender Balance Manager, IoP) and Sandra Takei (PhD researcher, KCL) who will present the newly launched Gender Action awards and their work in the area of gender and subject choices for students (from pre-school to A-levels). The presentation will be followed by a Question and Answer session.

Gender Action is an award programme which promotes and supports a whole-school approach to challenging stereotypes. Tiered progression levels put gender equality at the heart of policy and practice, recognising those striving to ensure there are no limits on young people reaching their potential. The programme has been developed by the Institute of Physics (IoP), King's College London (KCL), UCL Institute of Education (IoE) and the University Council of Modern Languages (UCML).

"Gender Action is a unique opportunity for King's, our partners, and universities across London to work with local schools to tackle the gender stereotypes that too often limit young people's horizons and prevent them from pursuing careers that might be perceived as unexpected or out of the ordinary. Young people should never be discouraged from choosing one subject over another because of their gender and I hope that this important new campaign inspires a new generation of physicists, engineers, playwrights and linguists who might otherwise have turned their back on the subjects they enjoy and are passionate about" – Baroness Deborah Bull, Vice-President and Vice-Principal, KCL

Join us to discuss issues concerning gender and subject choice in ML and other subjects. Please follow this link for more information on Gender Action Award: <https://www.genderaction.co.uk/>

A drinks reception will take place following the Debate from 7.15 to 7.45pm

Sign up for this event here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/language-acts-debates-gender-action-tickets-56811183780>

### Debates Series 2018/2019:

Debate 1: 7 Nov 2018 Communicating Emotions in a Foreign Language (Westminster)

Debate 2: 13 Mar 2019 Gender Action (King's)

Debate 3: May 2019 Language Provision in UK Modern Languages Depts 2018 Survey (King's)

## Language Acts and Worldmaking Debates



### Traversing Traditions, Opening Opportunities

The *Language Acts and Worldmaking* round-table *Debates Series* was conceived by Cristina Ros i Solé (Goldsmiths, University of London) for *Language Acts and Worldmaking*, an Arts and Humanities Research Council Open World Research Initiative project (OWRI), to foster a dialogue on the connections, divergences and identities of well-established traditions in Modern Languages and Language Education. As a major element of the project's *Language Transitions* strand led by Debra Kelly (Westminster) and Ana de Medeiros (King's College London), the series focuses in particular on the synergies and fissures between Language Education across educational sectors and the humanities, as well as seeking to investigate new openings and possibilities for the future. This is a three-year programme of debates which began in the academic year 2017/18, culminating in a collective publication and a series of associated papers. The *Debates* take place at *Language Acts and Worldmaking* universities and collaborating institutions.

We have defined 'Language Transitions' as 'border zones of learning' between stages that often become more of an hindrance than a stepping stone for so many language learners, whatever their level. The aim in the *Debates* is therefore to establish connections and create new directions for existing provision and for educational sectors in order to discuss how to foster dialogue, create smoother transitions and re-energise the field by examining current concerns and pedagogies in the field. Each *Debate* addresses a different aspect of these transitions and emphasises the benefits and challenges of traversing educational terrains and traditions to enrich and widen the experience of Modern, Community and World Languages.

The *Debates* adopt various formats, including short presentations and Q&A sessions, position papers and responses to these papers, panel and round table discussions with prominent experts, policy makers, academics and teachers.

Papers and responses are posted on-line on the *Language Acts and Worldmaking* website and blog: [www.languageacts.org](http://www.languageacts.org). This is the virtual home for posting information on the latest news and developments in the *Debates Series*, and the place where all the information about this series is archived.

#### **Debates Series 2017/2018:**

**Debate 1:** 4 Oct 17, Language Education Activism (King's College London)

**Debate 2:** 15 Nov 17, Modern Languages—A Discipline (still) in Search of an Identity?  
(University of Westminster)

**Debate 3:** 14 Feb 18, Should second language acquisition and language teaching be aligned and how? (King's College London)

**Debate 4:** 21 Mar 18, Has the digital world revolutionised language pedagogy? (King's College London)

**Debate 5:** 25 Apr 18, Interculturality and Creativity in Language Education (King's College London)