

Call For Papers

Thursday 27th June 2019

Queen Mary University of London, Bancroft Building: 3.27

Language Acts and Worldmaking examines language as a material and historical force which acts as the means by which individuals construct their personal, local, transnational and spiritual identities - the 'worldmaking' process. Our case study is Iberia, its global empires and contact zones, which stretch across Europe, Asia, Africa and the Americas.

This vast multilingual and multicultural terrain dramatically illustrates the potential of modern language learning to understand and shape the world we live in. Learning a language means understanding the historicity of concepts, beliefs and social practices - how they operate in the past and present. And for us, our situation in the UK and London, today, a city that acts as a powerful mediating agent for language acquisition, also becomes a site of study as communities across the city have adapted and transformed their lives in relation to the places they inhabit and the languages they speak and need to learn. Our research is hugely diverse - in terms of geography, theme, discipline and methodology - but all linked by the central theme of 'worldmaking'. As PhD students on the project, collaborating between King's College London, Queen Mary University of London, University of Westminster and The Open University, we would like to bring together fellow PhD students to discuss and present future theses in an interactive, relaxed and multimodal manner. In our work, we research linguistics, theatre, translation, language teaching and learning and literature. Through the Language Acts and Worldmaking PhD Forum event, we hope to enable PhD students to showcase their work amongst others from similar fields of study.

We invite proposals for both **full presentations** (20 minutes) and **elevator pitches** (3 minutes) of theses and research methods as well as **posters** and ideas for interactive **activities, performances** and **short workshops**. We encourage creative and innovative ideas, moving beyond the standard conference structure to allow for an interactive and relaxed discussion and collaboration. With the aim of discussing works in progress and learning from each other, we invite proposals touching on any of the following themes:

'Worldmaking'

Orality and voice

Embodiment of language and performance

Indigenous language and postcolonial perspectives

Agency of language and literature

Translation and language mediation

Teaching Modern Languages

Teachers as mediators in the classroom

Renaming Modern (Foreign) Languages

Learned 'borrowings' in Ibero-romance

Travelling of languages and language in London

Please submit all proposals to languageacts@kcl.ac.uk by **Sunday 5th May**, and for any questions and queries contact ella.martin@kcl.ac.uk.