

Language Acts and Worldmaking Debates



Debate 4 Academic Session 2018/19: the Linguistics in Modern Foreign Languages A-Levels project with Jonathan Kasstan (Westminster), Alice Corr (Birmingham), Anna Havinga (Bristol) and Michelle Sheehan (Anglia Ruskin)

THURSDAY 13th June, 6–7.15pm, University of Westminster, RS UG04 (Upper Ground Floor), 309 Regent Street, W1 2UW

Chair: Debra Kelly, University of Westminster

Our final Debate in this year's Series welcomes Jonathan Kasstan (Westminster), Alice Corr (Birmingham), Anna Havinga (Bristol) and Michelle Sheehan (Anglia Ruskin) to discuss the Linguistics in Modern Foreign Language A-Levels project.

The 'Linguistics in Modern Foreign Languages' (or MFL) project assesses the potential for the inclusion of linguistic topics in the Further Education MFL curriculum. Current syllabi make a sharp distinction between language and content, the latter referring to literature, film, history and culture. This differs from many university courses in which linguistic content is fundamental. The project engages students with linguistics and deepens their interests in language, including its historical, cultural and social reflexes. It is interested not only in how stimulating and relevant the pupils find these topics, but also in what effect this exposure has on their language attitudes and their confidence levels with speaking/writing another language.

The project is concerned principally with taking action to address approaches to MFL teaching and learning. The ultimate aim of this project is to drive stronger uptake and results in MFL study, and to enthuse and better prepare candidates for entry into MFL at university by bringing about a change in the curriculum.

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-linguistics-in-mfl-a-levels-project-tickets-59373899933>

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

Debate 4: THURSDAY 13 June 2019 Linguistics in School project (Westminster)

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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. 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)