

Call for Participant Applications

Implications of Societal Multilingualism for Language Education

International Webinar for Emergent Researchers of

Multilingualism and Education

World Education Research Association

The World Education Research Association (WERA) is pleased to announce an international webinar for emerging scholars on *Implications of Societal Multilingualism for Language Education*. This WERA webinar is being undertaken in cooperation with the Coordination Office for Research on Multilingualism and Language Education (aka KoMBi) at the University of Hamburg and Dr. Gregory Poarch at the University of Münster.

In cooperation with WERA, the Coordination Office for Research on Multilingualism & Language Education (aka KoMBi, University of Hamburg) and Dr. Gregory Poarch (University of Münster) invite emerging researchers to take part in an international online event entitled: *Implications of societal multilingualism for language education*.

The aims of the webinar are to:

- Provide substantive exposure to education research on societal multilingualism and explore research directions in a worldwide context;
- Create a wider basis for research in language and education by incorporating more diverse (cultural, linguistic etc.) backgrounds;
- Reach, support and include emerging researchers from a range of countries who have different approaches to the research topic;
- facilitate international networking among emerging researchers through the use of new media;
- Offer mentoring and feedback to the participants in the acquisition and development of research and presentation skills.

To meet these aims, we plan a three-part, interactive webinar that will provide participants with state-of-the-art input as well as opportunities to network and gain research and presentation skills.

Schedule (January-March 2019):

- 1) Participants 'attend' introductory Webinar 1 where they will be advised on the progression of the series, recommended readings, and the tasks they will need to complete. Specific reading will be expected to be examined prior to Webinar 2.
- 2) Webinar 2 comprises the main input, a lecture by Dr. Poarch based on his recent publication with Dr. Ellen Bialystok (York University) on language use and cognitive abilities. Participants 'attend' this webinar and formulate questions on the topic of multilingualism and education.
- 3) Participants then have 4 weeks to research and prepare a short presentation (approx. 10 minutes) on an issue pertaining to multilingualism and education in their own research contexts. The webinar facilitators will be on hand to advise the participants on content and presentation preparation. The objective is to prepare for an international conference at which they wish to present their research idea/work.
- 4) In Webinars 3 and 4, participants present the work they developed. The facilitators will comment on the presentations as a whole and they connect to the research arena. In a final phase, the facilitators will compile and provide overall and individual feedback according to set evaluation criteria.
- 5) Participants receive a certificate issued by WERA upon successful completion of the four-part webinar.

Participants and requirements:

- Status: Participants must be doctoral students, registered at a recognised higher education institution, with a research interest in multilingualism and education.
- English proficiency: The webinar series will be conducted in English – therefore, sufficient academic English skills are required. Applicants should indicate that they have the language skills required to successfully comprehend and complete assigned tasks at doctoral level.
- Equipment: A PC or laptop with internet connection, speaker, integrated microphone and – ideally – camera is also required. For the webinars, free-to-download software will be used (such as Adobe Connect or Slack). This will be decided together with webinar participants.

- Countries & time: It is anticipated that participants will come from a range of different countries, and emergent researchers from around the world are encouraged to apply. As the webinars will be conducted from Germany, participants from time zones UTC 0 – UTC +4 will be able to take part during regular hours. There is, however, no restriction on participants from other time zones applying to take part so long as they are prepared to do so outside of their regular working hours.

Webinars will take place at 12:00 CET on the following days:

- Monday, January 7th
- Monday, January 14th
- Monday, February 11th
- Wednesday, February 13th

Participants should budget around 90 minutes for each webinar.

Application Process:

If you are a doctoral researcher in the area of multilingualism and education and you would like to receive expert input on relevant topics, network with international emerging researchers, develop your presentation skills AND you meet the requirements outlined above then please apply to join this online series by 31st October 2018 to wera@aera.net.

The application must consist of (1) a statement of interest, (2) relevant background on the topic (in terms of research and formal course experience); (3) how you hope to benefit from the webinar. Each of these topics should be addressed in no more than 300 words. Please also provide a one-page vita that included full name and contact information, education (degrees and where received), current academic affiliation, and any presentations or publications.

Applicants must be available for all four parts of the webinar series.

Notification of acceptance/rejection will be given 22nd November 2018.

*Please note that participation numbers are limited.