

Call for paper

Language Education and Multilingualism

The Langscape Journal

Vol. 3

The third volume of of Langscape's scholarly open-access, peer-reviewed online journal will be devoted to the theme of

Multilingual life in urban linguistic landscapes

The urban population growth rate of 3% per year today is higher than the total population growth rate (1.6%). 58% of the world's population lives in cities of more than 100,000 inhabitants, compared with 30% in 1950, and 68% expected in 2050 (UN, 2018). In addition, the political upheavals of the last thirty years show that the city resists the reconfigurations of states and in this sense, appears as a perennial structure beyond the various crises that reshuffle the cards between the nation-states (Moreno, 2016).

Various challenges are posed by this urban development in the geopolitical, economic and social order. The city crystallizes inequalities with often dramatic consequences, opening the door to all sorts of manipulations, hatred and violence. It focuses on individuals from a variety of backgrounds, who often find it hard to find their place and to see their cultures, identities and languages obtain some kind of recognition (King & Carson, 2016).

Interconnected, globalized, the city belongs to an interdependent international network in which communication and cooperation have become decisive to plan concerted actions in order to solve new global problems, and to promote new ways of living, working and belonging.

The linguistic landscape construct has emerged over the past decade and the field of research has recently developed with renowned contributors (eg Shohamy et al., 2010) and specific publications (eg *Linguistic Landscape: An International Journal*, John Benjamins). It enables us to question the meaning of the choice of languages that are used for urban communication such as posters, signs, institutions... a meaning that can be political, emotional, pragmatic, ideological or linked to identity construction... In the modern city, a form of ubiquitous ordinary multilingualism is quickly invading the space and occupying a place that has become difficult to ignore. It occurs, among other things, in the form of translinguistic audio and visual productions and voices are rising today for the educational authorities to take this reality into account, so that each child can develop his or her skills on equal terms with the children of his / her generation (García & Wei, 2014).

The omnipresence of multilingualism also concerns the educational system and the school landscape. Schools in large cities are confronted with a population of children of plurilingual identities and multilingual diversity, a fact that requires a reaction both at the systemic and the individual level (Breibach et al, forthcoming).

- What are the different aspects of the multilingual display in European cities? What meaning(s) does it have? (inclusion, exclusion, solidarity, belonging)?

- How can the history of cities explain the dynamism of their multilingualism? What role does multilingualism / multilingualism play in the different urban centers? - How do cities today manage their multilingualism (linguistic policies, institutional consideration, language status)?
- How is plurilingualism taken into account in the educational system? How do the different stakeholders in the educational system regulate this particular context? How can the presence of languages in the city contribute to the linguistic awareness and language development of each child?

The article submitted will have to take into account the questions mentioned above and highlight the positioning and the point of view of each author. The length of the article will be of 40,000 characters, including spaces. Articles may be written at the choice of the author in English, French, German or Spanish.

Proposals of 1.5 to 2 pages are expected by March 1st, 2019. If your proposal is accepted, the deadline for receipt of the full article is August 1st, 2019. Proposals and articles should be sent to the following address: landscapejournal@hu-berlin.de

Bibliographie

Breidbach, S., Etuş, O., Lochtman, K., Sachdev, I. (eds.) (forthcoming). *Vitality of Urban Multilingualism and Language Education*. Leeuwarden, NL: Mercator European Research Centre on Multilingualism and Language Learning / Fryske Akademy.

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Moreno, C. (2016). *Urbanisation mondiale et réseaux de villes* [online]. *La Tribune*. Retrieved: April, 13th, 2016. From: <https://www.latribune.fr/regions/smart-cities/la-tribune-de-carlos-moreno/urbanisation-mondiale-et-reseaux-de-villes-563504.html>

United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2018). *World Urbanization Prospects 2018* [online]. Retrieved: December, 10th, 2018. From: <https://population.un.org/wup/>

Shohamy, E., Ben-Raphael, E., & Barmi, M. (eds.) (2010). *Linguistic Landscape in the City*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters.