

Description of activities

1. Doctoral Seminar, 21-22 September 2012

Coorganised with SOAS' research partner, PLIDAM ([Pluralité des Langues et des Identités: Didactique, Acquisition, Médiations](#)), the seminar will bring together 40 doctoral students and supervisors whose research, related to language learning and teaching in multilingual contexts, charts the ground for the activities to follow through the year.

The programme will include presentations of work-in-progress by doctoral students and by established scholars from the participating institutions.

2. Workshop series, September 2012 – June 2013

Five skills development workshops will be held at SOAS, University of London.

Each of the 3-day-long workshops will be taught by an eminent researcher representing a different perspective on multilingualism. Each workshop will consist of the following activities:

- A "big picture talk" by the invited speaker outlining the state of the art of the field.
- Four presentations by PhD students and ECRs of the participating institutions whose research draws on a relevant aspect of multilingualism (MA students are invited to attend).
- Interactive "master classes" led by the invited speaker and participating academics, to develop particular methodological skills of relevance for the field in focus (i.e. coding of multilingual data, conversation analysis, naturalistic and experimental data collection on social networks) through practical work in small groups.
- Workshops for MA students and PhD/ECR participants to develop research topics or ideas for research projects in the specific area covered by the workshop.
- A one-day session with the SOAS outreach team teaching outreach and dissemination strategies and skills, including presentations and communication skills for public media, outreach events in schools, and self-presentation.

3. Public seminar series, September 2012 – June 2013

Linked to each workshop will be a public lecture for members of the [SOAS Centre for Language Pedagogy](#) to inform language practitioners about newest research findings.

The talks will take place within the [CLP Seminar Series](#).

4. Multilingualism Week

The scheme will culminate in Multilingualism Week, a major dissemination and outreach event celebrating multilingualism, making central issues accessible to the general public, and showcasing our activities. Planned activities are:

- Series of talks presenting multilingual research questions/contexts to a non-specialist scientific audience.
- Outreach to schools: Scheme participants will develop a programme for schools. Pupils and teachers will obtain information on language issues, ranging from multilingualism to language endangerment. Four school classes will be invited together with their head teachers to participate in a multilingualism workshop. They will gain hands-on experience in conducting language experiments. Additionally, students will be recording a story in (one of) their language(s).

- Open Day: publishers and research groups will exhibit their work through stalls and multimedia presentations; researchers will give talks to the public about different aspects of multilingualism, e.g. cognitive advantages and teaching and learning languages; SOAS Radio will record and broadcast podcasts with leading researchers and with participants; a politician and a policy maker will be invited to lead a public debate on multilingualism in modern Britain.

5. Placements

Eight students will have the opportunity to spend 3 weeks in a field or laboratory setting, acquiring expertise in areas of research not readily available at their home institutions.

Two participants from Bangor will conduct a small-scale study on multilingualism in a non-European setting, namely, in Senegal. Four students from SOAS will be able to acquire and test new research methods in Bangor and Lund.

For the field placement in Senegal, students will be hosted in the field base of an externally funded research project led by Friederike Lüpke. The project investigates the Baïnouk languages, a cluster of closely related languages spoken in a highly multilingual area. There is ample opportunity for small-scale studies on these and other languages, always in conjunction with one of the researchers involved in the project or the associated research group Crossroads.

Professor Marianne Gullberg (Lund) and Professor Margaret Deuchar (Bangor) will each host two SOAS students in their respective institutions. Students will employ quantitative and experimental research methods benefitting from high-tech facilities and research techniques.