

# Canberra Region Languages Forum Update

June 2017

## 1. ANU Language Teaching Forum

- Monday 24 July 2017, 4.15 – 5.15 pm
- Room W3.03, Level 3, Baldessin Precinct Building #110, ANU
- Gabrielle Quadraccia, Variations on cultural themes: creating multi-level resources for the adult learner

The forum aims to foster the exchange of research and new approaches in language education. Language teachers and researchers across ANU colleges and language educators from outside the university such as secondary school teachers and teachers from community schools are all welcome. For more information and/or to join the mailing list, contact:

- Ms France Meyer (Centre for Arab & Islamic Studies, CASS)  
france.meyer@anu.edu.au
- Dr Duck-Young Lee (School of Culture, History & Language, CAP)  
duck.lee@anu.edu.au
- Dr Manuel Delicado (School of Literature, Languages and Linguistics, CASS)  
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## 2. Dyslexia, Language and Learning to Read

- Tuesday 25 July, 6-7 pm
- Finkel Theatre, John Curtin School of Medical Research, Garran Road, ANU.
- Professor Maggie Snowling. President of St John's College Oxford, Professor of Psychology at University of Oxford, Fellow of both the British Academy and the Academy of Medical Sciences and professionally qualified as a clinical psychologist.
- A free ANU Emeritus Faculty Lecture.

Professor Snowling is interested in the nature and causes of children's reading difficulties and how best to ameliorate them. Without the ability to read fluently with comprehension there is a downward spiral of poor educational achievement and career prospects. Dyslexia is therefore a major problem for society and a key question is whether it is possible to intervene early to ameliorate its impact.

All welcome, but booking requested at <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/dyslexia-language-and-learning-to-read-tickets-35500403663>

Enquiries to Colin Steele: phone 6125 8983 or email colin.steele@anu.edu.au

## 3. The Australian Census: Opportunities for research on multilingualism

- Tuesday 25 July 2017, 11.00 am - 1.00 pm
- Australian Hearing Hub (S2.6) Room 1.64 (1st floor) Macquarie University, Sydney

Organized by the Macquarie Multilingualism Research Group, this workshop will discuss the potential for research on multilingualism incorporating new data from the Australian 2016 Census. Timed to follow the first release of data from the 2016 Census, the workshop will be an opportunity to discuss the roles of census data in ongoing multilingualism research.

Associate Professor Jim Forrest (Geography and Planning) and Professor Phil Benson (Linguistics) will outline how census data has been used in previous research on multilingualism, in Australia and internationally, and discuss their own collaborative work on patterns of multilingualism in Sydney and intergenerational language shift in Australia.

To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/the-australian-census-opportunities-for-research-on-multilingualism-tickets-35193825680>

#### **4. AUSIT National Mini-conference: translation and interpreting: ethics and professionalism – call for papers**

The ACT Branch of the Australian Institute of Interpreters and Translators will host the AUSIT National Mini-conference in November 2017. Translation and interpreting scholars, as well as practising translators and interpreters, are invited to submit proposals for papers addressing the conference theme: Translation and Interpreting: Ethics and Professionalism. Presentations on all related aspects are welcome including, but not limited to, practice, theory, research and pedagogy.

Submission deadline for proposals for papers is 31 July 2017

For more information: <https://easychair.org/cfp/AUSIT2017>

#### **5. Opportunities for language learning**

##### a) French language and culture with the Alliance Française de Canberra

- Languages courses over the break: 3 July – Friday 14 July
- Bastille Day: Breakfast Friday 14 July, 7.30am
- Speed Talking: Thursday 27 July, 12noon
- Book Club: Tuesday 25 July, & Saturday 29 July, 12noon

For details call 6257 6696 / 6257 2140, email [enquiries@afcanberra.com.au](mailto:enquiries@afcanberra.com.au) or visit <http://www.afcanberra.com.au>

##### b) Canberra Portuguese and Brazilian Conversation Meetup

- A group for anyone interested in practising their Portuguese or Brazilian language skills, or simply indulging in their mother tongue of Portuguese. All skill levels are welcome. The group is very relaxed and meets just once a week for an hour, with occasional other events.

For more information: <https://www.meetup.com/Canberra-Portuguese-Brasileiro-Conversation-Meetup/events/240959131/>

##### c) Polyglot Club

- Mondays evenings at the ANU. Small conversation groups in French, German, Spanish and Danish. For more information: <http://www.canberrapolyglot.org/>

##### d) Learn Indonesian with the Australia Indonesia Association ACT Inc (AIA (ACT))

- Fun vocational classes with professional and native Indonesian speaking teachers held at a private address in O'Malley
- Five Levels from Beginners level 1 to Advanced

For more details: <https://aia-act.org.au/learn-indonesian>, phone 0406 930 835 or email [vp-australian@aia-act.org.au](mailto:vp-australian@aia-act.org.au)

##### e) For other opportunities to study and practice a range of languages in the Canberra region: <http://actbilingual.weebly.com/other-language-programs.html>

#### **6. SBS National Languages Competition**

- An initiative to encourage and celebrate a love of learning languages in Australia.
- A nationwide competition to engage school children and reflect on the cultural, linguistic and ethnic diversity of Australia's multicultural society.

School students aged 4 to 18 years who are learning a language other than English in any institution in Australia are invited to take part. To enter, students need to upload a video (maximum 30 seconds long) describing - in any language other than English - 'What learning a language means to you?'

Competition entries are open from 9am on Monday 24 July 2017 (AEST) until Midnight on Friday 1 September 2017 (AEST).

For more information and resources to help spread the message: <http://www.sbs.com.au/nlc17>

## 7. ACT Bilingual Education Alliance - new Facebook Page

ACTBEA now has a facebook page, look for [ACT Bilingual Education Alliance](#).

Visit to 'like' the page, share ideas and information, and contribute to the discussion about how we can promote and support language maintenance and learning in the Canberra region.

## 8. Articles and links that may be of Interest:

- Learning a second-language is good for democracy and helps steel us against the prevailing small-mindedness of our times.

[https://qz.com/957043/learning-a-second-language-isnt-just-good-for-your-brain-its-good-for-democracy-too/?utm\\_source=qzfbarchive](https://qz.com/957043/learning-a-second-language-isnt-just-good-for-your-brain-its-good-for-democracy-too/?utm_source=qzfbarchive)

- *New Ways of Seeing: How Multilingualism Opens Our Eyes and Trains Our Minds for a Complex World*. An Asia Society Publication by Chris Livaccari, drawing on his past experience as a teacher of Japanese and Chinese and time as a U.S. diplomat, and current role as a middle school principal.

<http://asiasociety.org/china-learning-initiatives/new-ways-seeing-how-multilingualism-opens-our-eyes-and-trains-our-minds-c>

- Two recent posts from Language on the Move - a peer-reviewed sociolinguistics research site devoted to multilingualism, language learning and intercultural communication in the contexts of globalization and migration.

International students and language: opportunity or threat?

<http://www.languageonthemove.com/international-students-and-language-opportunity-or-threat/>

Top 10 language learning tips for language lovers

<http://www.languageonthemove.com/top-10-language-learning-tips-for-language-lovers/>

For previous posts, more info about the site or if you are interested in contributing to Language on the Move through writing a research blog post or through translating sociolinguistics into other languages see <http://www.languageonthemove.com/>

## FEEDBACK ON UPDATES AND CONTRIBUTIONS TO FUTURE UPDATES WELCOME

**Copies of previous Forum Updates are available at**  
<http://canberralanguages.blogspot.com/p/forum-updates.html>