



CALL FOR PAPERS

Fifth biannual REAL symposium, 2024-06-03/04

**Human Capital, Languages, and New Literacies:
Theories, Policies, and Impacts**

ORGANIZERS

REAL (Research group “Economics, policy analysis, and language”) in cooperation with **Ulster University**, **Universitat de Barcelona**, and **Universitat Rovira i Virgili** organizes an interdisciplinary symposium on 3–4 June 2024 at Universitat Rovira i Virgili, Tarragona, Catalonia, Spain.

The program committee consists of Amado Alarcón (Universitat Rovira i Virgili), Antonio Di Paolo (Universitat de Barcelona), Michele Gazzola (Ulster University, REAL), and Bengt-Arne Wickström, chair (Andrássy-Universität, REAL).

Responsible for the local organization are Amado Alarcón and Ana Beatriz Hernández-Lara (Universitat Rovira i Virgili). The Local organization committee works under the auspice of the Research Group “Social and Organization Analysis” and the research project “Literacies and Occupations in the Digital Era” funded by the Ministry of Science and Innovation of Spain

THEME

The symposium aims to discuss the relationship between languages and human capital in the widest possible sense, while paying attention also to the new forms of literacies that the digital revolution has brought about. Contributions to the symposium can cover theoretical and empirical research on the topic, or the practical implications in terms of language policy and impact. The symposium is interdisciplinary, and contributions are accepted from economics, political science, sociology, law, sociolinguistics and applied linguistics.

Submissions addressing the general theme of the symposium are invited, including, but not limited to, the following issues:

- The value of languages in the labor market and/or in the economic system as a whole
- Language diversity, human capital and socio-economic development
- New forms of literacies required in and by the market

- Language policies and human capital acquisition
- Linguistic diversity and staff development in both public administration and the private sector
- Theory of human capital in multilingual contexts
- Linguistic inequalities in human capital development and new literacies acquisition
- Linguistic justice and human capital
- Language policy evaluation

SUBMISSION

Those interested in presenting a paper should send an abstract of no more than 500 words to **Bengt-Arne Wickström** before **31 March 2024**. Selected papers can be submitted to a thematic issue of the journal *Language Problems & Language Planning* and will be subjected to normal refereeing procedures.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

We are very happy that the following scholars have accepted our invitation to deliver the keynote addresses of the symposium.

ANTHONY PYM

Distinguished Professor of Translation and Intercultural Studies at Rovira i Virgili University in Spain, Professor Extra-ordinary at Stellenbosch University in South Africa, and Honorary Professor at the University of Leicester in the United Kingdom. He was Visiting Researcher at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey in California from 2008 to 2016 and President of the European Society for Translation Studies from 2010 to 2016. He has published more than 240 articles on translation and intercultural communication.

RAJESH RAMACHANDRAN

Senior lecturer at Monash University Malaysia and co-director at the chair of International and Development Politics, Universität Heidelberg (appointment by courtesy). He obtained his PhD from Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona and previously held positions at Goethe-Universität and Universität Heidelberg. His research lies at the intersection of development economics and political economy. His primary research interests include political linguistics and language policy, economics of caste, and economics of education and health. His work has been published in journals such as the *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Development Economics* and *World Development*, as well as appeared in policy documents such as the *Global Education Monitoring Report of the UNESCO*.

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Ainoa APARICIO FENOLL, ESOMAS - Università degli Studi di Torino, Collegio Carlo Alberto
- Till BURCKHARDT, Université de Genève
- Ramon CAMINAL, Institut d'Anàlisi Econòmica (IAE-CSIC), Barcelona
- Marco CIVICO, Université de Genève
- Florian COULMAS, Universität Duisburg-Essen
- Keiji FUJIYOSHI, Research Committee 25 “Language & Society”, International Sociological Association, 追手門学院大学 (Otemon Gakuin University)
- Cecilio LAPRESTA-REY, Research Group GRELEI, Universitat de Lleida
- Eva MARKOWSKY, Universität Hamburg
- Daniele MAZZACANI, Ulster University
- François VAILLANCOURT, Université de Montréal, CIRANO

GENERAL INFORMATION

The home page of the REAL Symposium 2024 can be found [here](#) and [here](#). On the evening before the symposium, participants are invited to an informal welcoming reception. There will also be receptions in the evening of each day of the symposium. Early registration will open on 15 April 2024. For early registrants, the ordinary participation fee will be 150 euros and for students there is a reduced fee of 100 euros.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 2024-03-31 Deadline for submitting an abstract
- 2024-04-15 Decisions on submitted abstracts
- 2024-04-15 Opening of early registration
- 2024-04-30 Registration deadline for presenters of accepted papers
- 2024-05-15 Begin of late registration period (180 euros)

SUPPORTING INSTITUTIONS

We are grateful for the support of our sponsors:

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