

**International Conference on
Multilingualism and Migration: Mobility and Linguistic Identity**

September 15-17, 2025

Biblioteca Universitaria Genoa, Italy

Organised by: Simona Leonardi and Sandra Vlasta / University of Genoa, Italy

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Linguistic Fields: Applied Linguistics, Sociolinguistics

Deadline for abstracts: 31 January 2025

Our contemporary world is characterised by different forms of migration and mobility: people migrate for work, education and family, they might have to leave a place for political or economic reasons, or they might flee wars, ecological disasters or terrorism. These migrants feel the need to adapt to their new homelands, not least to their language(s) and their culture(s). They need to renegotiate their identity, incorporating new elements and preserving others they have brought with them. These processes also affect host societies that transform due to the impact of migration.

This conference aims to bring together researchers working on the impact of these processes on language(s). By language we intend diatopic varieties and minority languages as well as language forms that may occur only in the context of migration (for instance via code-switching and code-mixing). Migration brings different languages together; it approximates multilingual speakers and may shape multilingual realities. At the same time, these processes may create opposition to certain languages, negative attitudes towards speakers and resistance to multilingualism. Also, they may enforce hierarchies between languages and allow that certain languages are perceived positively whereas others are seen as less valuable.

We invite researchers interested in these and related aspects and working, for instance, on multilingualism, language and identity, education, linguistic landscapes, language attitudes, onomastics (names in migration) and language change over generations.

The conference sees itself as a critical space for stimulating dialogue among international scholars working on, but not limited to the following topics:

- linguistic adaptation in migration, including linguistic competence(s); relation / change of name(s) in migration; relationship to different languages in a speaker's repertoire
- multilingual speakers / writers in the context of migration
- narratives that reflect the complex processes of immigrants' relation to the original and to the new society
- attitudes towards multilingual migrants / multilingualism in the context of migration
- the role of (social) media in the context of multilingualism in migration (for migrants and for the host society)
- formal and informal educational language support provided by the host country
- the role of education in maintaining people's heritage / first language(s)

We welcome original studies which address the following topics:

Language, Identity and Ideology, Multilingualism, Migration, Language Maintenance and Language Attrition, Biographies and Narratives, Landscapes and People, Language and Conflict, Heritage Languages, Language and Diaspora, Names in Migration etc.

We welcome contemporary as well as historical perspectives.

Conference language: English

Scientific committee:

Prof. Natalia Dankova, Université du Québec en Outaouais, Canada

Prof. Ellen Hurst-Harosh, University of Johannesburg, South Africa

Dr. Karolina Kowalcze, University of Genoa, Italy

Prof. Simona Leonardi, University of Genoa, Italy

Dr. Rita Luppi, University of Bologna, Italy

Prof. Malka Muchnik, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

Dr. Ramona Pellegrino, University of Bologna, Italy

Prof. Mila Schwartz, Oranim Academic College of Education, Israel

Prof. Michal Tannenbaum, Tel Aviv University, Israel

Dr. Sandra Vlasta, University of Genoa, Italy

Prof. Joel Walters, Bar-Ilan University, Israel

Organizing committee:

Prof. Simona Leonardi, University of Genoa, Italy

Dr. Karolina Kowalcze, University of Genoa, Italy

Dr. Sandra Vlasta, University of Genoa, Italy

Submission details:

We encourage proposals for individual papers and panels. Panels should include an organizer / moderator and three or four presentations.

Proposals of 300-500 words, including bibliography, and up to five keywords should be submitted to: sandra.vlasta@unige.it

Important dates:

Abstract submission deadline: January 31, 2025

Notification of acceptance: 28 February 2025

Early bird registration: 31 March to 30 April 2025

Regular registration deadline: 30 June 2025

We plan to publish selected papers in a peer-reviewed, open-access special issue of "Polyphonie" (see: www.polyphonie.at/ / <https://riviste.unige.it/index.php/polyphonie/index>), guest edited by Prof. Simona Leonardi and Dr. Sandra Vlasta.