

Polish Britain: Multilingualism and Diaspora Community

An International Conference

in association with



Sidney Sussex College

9 February 2018

NOTES

MULTILINGUALISM:

Empowering
Individuals

Transforming
Societies

Polish Britain: Multilingualism and Diaspora Community



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Convened by **Stanley Bill**
(Lecturer in Polish Studies at the University of Cambridge),
and **Edyta Nowosielska**
(Lector in Polish at the University of Cambridge)

A one-day international conference on the subject of multilingualism in Polish contexts in the United Kingdom. The conference is funded by and organised in association with the 'Multilingualism: Empowering Individuals, Transforming Societies' (MEITS) research project under the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Open World Research Initiative.

Polish is now the second most commonly spoken language, after English, in England and Wales. Over a million Poles live in the United Kingdom, and the vast majority of them are multilingual and live in multilingual environments. In this conference, we aim to present a broad view of multilingualism in a range of different contexts connected with Poles, Polish communities, and the Polish language in Britain. We will put a diverse set of different approaches into dialogue, including perspectives from applied and theoretical linguistics, psychology, literary studies, language teaching, education, and community activism.

We will connect the question of multilingualism with broader issues of migration and multicultural society. Presentations will examine multilingualism among Poles, but also the phenomena of non-Poles learning Polish and of multilingualism among Ukrainian migrants in Poland.

'Multilingualism: Empowering Individuals, Transforming Societies' (MEITS) is a major interdisciplinary research project funded under the AHRC Open World Research Initiative. Linguistic competence in more than one language – being multilingual – sits at the heart of the study of modern languages and literatures, distinguishing it from cognate disciplines. Through six interlocking research strands, the project investigates how the insights gained from stepping outside a single language, culture and mode of thought are vital to individuals and societies. The project is led by Wendy Ayres-Bennett, Professor of French Philology and Linguistics at the University of Cambridge.

PROGRAMME

8:45am – 9:15am:	Coffee and Registration
9:15am – 9:30am:	Introduction: Stanley Bill and Edyta Nowosielska
9:30am – 11:00am:	Session 1 (Chair: Wendy Ayres-Bennett)
Elwira Grossman	The Art of Trans/languageing: Teaching and Learning Polish in Multilingual Settings.
Anna Seretny	Polish as a heritage language - an 'in between' phenomenon.
Yaron Matras	Polish in the context of Manchester's language diversity: Data accessibility, provisions, and public engagement.
11:00am – 11:30am:	Coffee
11:30am – 1:00pm:	Session 2 (Chair: Aleksandra Gocławska)
Thomas Bak	Cognitive effects of bilingualism: a new dimension in the old debate, whether to teach your language to your children.
Zofia Wodniecka	Language and neurocognitive processes in bilingual speakers of Polish – a psycholinguistic perspective.
Lisa-Maria Müller	Investigating typical English-Polish bilingual development and developmental language disorder in a longitudinal twin case study.
1:00pm – 2:00pm:	Lunch Break
2:00pm – 3:30pm:	Session 3 (Chair: Rory Finnin)
Katarzyna Zechenter	Bilingualism in the UK and the US: A comparison.
Myroslava Keryk	Language practices of Ukrainian migrants in Poland.
Elżbieta Kwiatkowska	Ukrainians and Byelorussians in Poland - communication, social and professional contexts.

3:30pm – 4:00pm:	Coffee
4:00pm – 5:30pm:	Session 4 (Chair: Edyta Nowosielska)
Kinga Kozminska	New speaking styles?: demystifying homogeneity of Polish-speaking migrants.
Anna Martowicz	Self-reflection on language and identity in children in Polish diaspora – some findings and their implications.
Jan Fellerer	Language Mixing: Notes on ‘Ponglish’.
5:30pm – 6:30pm:	Final Discussion (Chair: Stanley Bill):
	Jakub Krupa, Krystyna Olliffe, Anne White.
6:30pm – 7:15pm:	Closing Reception

PARTICIPANTS

Wendy Ayres-Bennett is Professor of French Philology and Linguistics at the University of Cambridge. She specialises in the history of French and the history of linguistic thought, on which she has published widely. Her research interests include standardisation and codification, linguistic ideology and policy, variation and change. She is Principal Investigator on the multi-disciplinary, multi-institution research project, 'Multilingualism: Empowering Individuals, Transforming Societies' (MEITS), funded by the AHRC under its Open World Research Initiative (2016-2020). The project is working closely with policymakers and practitioners to promote the value of languages for key issues of our time and the benefits of language learning for individuals and societies.

Thomas Bak is Reader in Psychology at the University of Edinburgh. He is currently the leader of Strand 6 of Cambridge's MEITS project, bringing his expertise in cognitive aspects of multilingualism. Since the 1990s he has been working on the relationship between language and other cognitive functions. In collaboration with colleagues in Hyderabad, India, he recently produced the largest and most thorough study to date examining the effect of bilingualism on the age of onset of different types of dementia. In 2014 he published the first study addressing the relationship between bilingualism, childhood intelligence and cognitive aging. He is involved in further studies examining the effects of early and late language learning in young and older adults as well as in patients with different brain disorders.

Stanley Bill is Lecturer in Polish Studies and director of the Polish Studies programme at the University of Cambridge. He works largely on twentieth-century Polish literature and culture, with particular interests in religion, secularization theory, Polish-Ukrainian relations, and postcolonial interpretations of Polish cultural history. He has published articles on Czesław Miłosz, Bruno Schulz, postcolonial theory in the Polish context, the afterlife of Polish Romanticism, as well as on religious problems in the novels of Fyodor Dostoevsky. Most recently, Dr Bill has published a translation of Czesław Miłosz's novel *The Mountains of Parnassus* (Yale University Press, 2017) with a critical introduction. As well as literature and culture, Dr Bill also teaches Polish language at Cambridge.

Jan Fellerer is Lecturer in non-Russian Slavonic languages at the University of Oxford, Wolfson College. His main areas of scholarly interest are in the history and structure of West and East Slavonic languages, in particular Polish, Czech and Ukrainian, including a book on multilingualism in 19th-century Galicia and numerous articles on topics in Slavonic linguistics and history. He is currently working on a monograph on the mixed Polish-Ukrainian dialect of pre-World War II Lviv in its historical context, which is based on research supported by the UK Arts and Humanities Research Council and the Leverhulme Trust. He is currently also co-editing, together with Professor Neil Bermel, the volume on Slavonic languages, to appear in the series 'The Oxford Guide to the World's Languages'.

Rory Finnin is Head of the Slavonic Studies Section and director of the Ukrainian Studies programme at the University of Cambridge. He is also the Co-Investigator on Strand 1 of the MEITS (Multilingualism: Empowering Individuals, Transforming

Societies) project at Cambridge. Dr Finnin brings to the project a record of scholarship that has raised and enriched the profile of Ukraine as a multilingual and multi-ethnic cultural space bound together by projects of inter and intra-national solidarity. His primary research interest is the interplay of language, literature and national identity in Ukraine and the Black Sea region. He works in the Ukrainian, Russian, Turkish and Crimean Tatar languages. His broader interests include nationalism theory, human rights discourse, and problems of cultural memory.

Aleksandra Goćławska is a PhD student on Strand 1 of the MEITS (Multilingualism: Empowering Individuals, Transforming Societies) project at the University of Cambridge. Her research interests involve the formal manifestations of transnational identities in contemporary literature. She has published on translation, gender, identity and language in Spanish and Latin American authors as well as worked as a literary translator from Catalan into Polish. As PhD student on the MEITS project, Aleksandra is exploring the narratives of impurity and their relationship to the use of multilingualism in the writing of Maria-Mercè Marçal and Julia Fiedorczuk. Her thesis reflects upon the way in which the discourse of linguistic purism shapes concepts such as 'national literature', 'national language' and multilingual identities.

Elwira Grossman is Stepek Lecturer in Polish Studies and Director of the Comparative Literature programme at the University of Glasgow. Her research interests include contemporary Polish culture, intercultural communication, Polish/Jewish relations as well as teaching Polish as a foreign language. She edited and contributed to the collection of essays *Studies in Language, Literature, and Cultural Mythology in Poland. Investigating 'The Other'* (2002). Between 2012-15 she was involved in an AHRC-funded international project *Researching Multilingually* and co-designed a MOOC course *Multilingual Learning for a Globalised World*. Her most recent collaborative projects, which are based on public engagement activities, consist of two Polish language learning units prepared for local Scottish schools.

Myroslava Keryk is a historian, sociologist, and specialist in the field of migration of Ukrainians to Poland. She is the Head of the civic organization 'Our Choice' Foundation and Editor-in-Chief of the newspaper 'Nash Vybir'. She has published work on the subject of recent Ukrainian migration to Poland. In her daily work, she combines the design and implementation of integration activities directed at Ukrainian migrants in Poland with research projects in the field of migration studies. The organization she heads has established the Ukrainian House in Warsaw. This institution functions as a cultural and integration centre for the Ukrainian diaspora in Warsaw, but also as a meeting point for Ukrainians and Poles, and a place for the development of common projects.

Kinga Kozminska is a sociolinguist working on identity formation within the Polish-speaking diaspora. Her research interests include: language ideologies, language variation and change, language contact, sociophonetics and language socialization. She is now a Postdoctoral Research Assistant at Birkbeck College, University of London, where she is working on an ESRC-funded project 'Family Language Policy: A multilevel investigation of multilingual practices in transnational families'. She has also taught sociolinguistics at Oxford and worked in Linguistics at the University of Brighton. She has co-organised two linguistic anthropology conferences at Oxford

(Language, Indexicality and Belonging 2016, Language, Mobility and Belonging 2017) and the Gender, Identity and Migration Seminar at King's College London.

Jakub Krupa is the UK Correspondent for the Polish Press Agency (PAP), Poland's national news agency. He leads PAP's coverage of Britain's politics, including the negotiations on withdrawal from the European Union, and writes on Polish-British bilateral relations and the Polish community in the United Kingdom. Jakub is also a Board Member of the Polish Social and Cultural Association (POSK) in London, and a member of its Advisory Council. He also sits on the Polish-British Belvedere Forum's steering committee, an advisory body overseeing the organisation of an annual event dedicated to strengthening Polish-British relations. He holds a BA in European studies from the University of Warsaw, and an MSc in European studies from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

Elżbieta Kwiatkowska is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of Education at the Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński University in Warsaw. She is a Member of the Elementary Education Team on the Pedagogical Sciences Committee at the Polish Academy of Sciences. She is also the pedagogical coordinator of the university kindergarten (CSWU). She is the author of the preschool education program *Children will change the world for the better*. Her research interests are concentrated on two areas: (1) creativity and methodology of integrated activities at kindergartens, conducive to the optimal development of the child as well as modern education and training for teachers of preschool education; and (2) social functioning in a multicultural environment in the context of children, students, and migrants.

Anna Martowicz is a language teacher and a linguist with a PhD degree from the University of Edinburgh. She is a founder and CEO of APPLA (Association for the Promotion of Polish Language Abroad) and coordinator of an international bilingualism campaign ('Podaruj dziecku swój język ojczysty' / 'Give your child the gift of your native language') aimed at Polish parents living abroad. Her research interests revolve around issues of multilingualism, language typology and heritage language education with special emphasis on methodology of teaching Polish as a heritage language. She is also an active member of the Polish Educational Committee campaigning for the introduction of Polish as a Modern Language into the mainstream education system in Scotland.

Yaron Matras is Professor of Linguistics at the University of Manchester and the academic lead of the 'Multilingual Manchester' project. His recent books include *A Grammar of Domari* (Mouton de Gruyter 2012), *Romani in Britain: The afterlife of a language* (Edinburgh University Press, 2010), and *Language contact* (Cambridge University Press, 2009). He has recently published a general introduction to the history and culture of the Romani people, *I met lucky people: The story of the Romani Gypsies* (Penguin, 2014). The 'Multilingual Manchester' project – which he leads – aims to promote awareness of language diversity in the city-region and beyond. Participants study the challenges and the opportunities that language diversity brings, exploring how it shapes language repertoires and practices.

Lisa-Maria Müller is a research associate on Strand 5 of the MEITS (Multilingualism: Empowering Individuals, Transforming Societies) project at the University of Cambridge. This research strand investigates the influence of age,

setting and language-specific factors on foreign language learning. She also works on Multi-Well, a project investigating the link between multilingualism and well-being, and studies the acquisition of pre-literacy skills and socio-emotional development in a bilingual school setting as part of the AVoBE (Added Value of Bilingual Education) initiative. In her doctoral thesis, Dr Müller investigated typical and impaired English-Polish bilingual development in a longitudinal twin case study, taking a dynamic systems approach.

Edyta Nowosielska is Lecturer in Polish at the University of Cambridge. She teaches open courses in Polish language for beginner and intermediate students. She is also a member of the 'Teaching in the Polish Diaspora Unit', at the Polish University Abroad, London (PUNO). In 2000, she established the first school of Polish as a foreign language for adults in London. Her research interests lie in language teaching, particularly in investigating new ways of teaching Polish. She is currently working on her PhD thesis exploring the Callan Method as an approach to teaching Polish. She is a contributor to a guide for parents intending to bring up bilingual children, *Po polsku na Wyspach. Poradnik dla rodziców dzieci dwujęzycznych*. She is also the co-author of a series of easy readers in Polish in e-book form.

Krystyna Olliffe is the Chair of the Polish Educational Society (Polska Macierz Szkolna). Since 1986, she has been involved in Polish supplementary education, first as a member of a parents' committee, then as a teacher, a deputy head teacher, and eventually school head teacher. She performed this role for 21 years. In her professional career her main interest was special education. Krystyna Olliffe has been a member of the Polish Educational Society Council and its Management Committee for over 20 years. Since 2016 she has served as the Chair of the Committee. As a recognition of her contribution to Polish supplementary education, Krystyna Olliffe was awarded the Order of Polonia Restituta, the Medal of the National Education Commission, and the Society's Gold Distinction.

Anna Seretny is Associate Professor in the Centre for the Polish Language and Culture in the World at the Jagiellonian University in Krakow, where she researches various topics relating to the learning and teaching of Polish as a foreign and heritage language. She has held the position of Visiting Professor at the University of Connecticut, USA, and at the University of Toronto (Canada). She is the author of various articles and books on language learning and teaching, including *ABC metodyki nauczania języka polskiego jako obcego* (2005) and *Słownictwo w dydaktyce języka* (2015), and also of Polish language text-books for students. Her current interests focus on heritage/foreign learners' language competence, vocabulary acquisition and use, measuring learners' vocabulary size.

Anne White is Professor of Polish Studies and Social and Political Science at University College London. Her current research interests include Polish migration and social change in Poland. Most of her fieldwork consists of in-depth interviews conducted across Poland, as well as interviews in the UK and participant observation as an English teacher to adults at Polish Saturday schools in Bath. Her publications include *Polish Families and Migration since EU Accession* (2011, 2017). She is the main author and editor of *The Impact of Migration on Poland: EU Mobility and Social Change* (2018). Her current project, *Invisible Poles*, examines how some people with

Polish roots in the UK are becoming 'more Polish' in response to the wave of migration from Poland since 2004. She runs the *Polish Migration Website*.

Zofia Wodniecka is Associate Professor at the Institute of Psychology at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków. Thanks to funding from Foundation for Polish Science, in 2010 she established a Psychology of Language and Bilingualism Lab that explores the phenomenon of bilingualism from a cognitive science perspective. Her research interests include: bilingual language processing and development, consequences of bilingualism, neurocognitive functions underlying a second language use, as well as consequences of second language learning on first language processing and other aspects of cognition. She is currently Principal Investigator on a NCN-funded project on language attrition among Polish speakers in the UK, and a partner in two other networking projects related to multilingualism.

Katarzyna Zechenter teaches Polish literature, culture and film at University College London. Her interests lie above all in memory, be it memory of space such as post-socialist spaces (Nowa Huta, Dunaújváros), memory of the past in Polish-Jewish literature, and memory of the Borderlands (a monograph on Tadeusz Konwicki). She is currently working on a project on the role of suffering in national consciousness and the role suffering plays in the creation of modern Polish identity. She is also a poet whose poems appeared in such literary journals as *Kultura*, *Zeszyty Literackie*, *Tygodnik Powszechny* and *Odra*. Dr Zechenter is the editor of two books on multilingualism in Polish contexts: *Bilingual and Bicultural. Speaking Polish in North America* (2017) and *Po polsku na Wyspach* (2016).

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