

API Education Forum

16.00-17.30 CET 5th September 2024

Mediation as negotiation of meanings for plurilingualism

Bessie Dendrinou, Johann Fischer, Kia Karavas

This session presents the collection edited by Bessie Dendrinou entitled *Mediation as Negotiation of Meanings, Plurilingualism, and Language Education*, published by Routledge in 2024 which brings together the voices of European scholars, researchers and educators to shed light on theoretical and practical issues linked to mediation, viewed as a key competency for active citizenry in this age of superdiversity. The book, organised into 12 chapters concerning linguistic and cultural mediation, aims to ignite language professionals' interest in researching mediation both as curricular content in the context of plurilingual pedagogies, and as facilitative social practice in multilingual settings.

During the session, Dendrinou will make a general introduction to this volume, which furthers the concept of mediation as an act that implicates social agents in relaying/rendering messages for expressed communicative purposes across and/or within the same language, across discourses, genres and semiotic modes of communication. In doing so, mediators are involved in negotiation, interpretation and (re)construction of meanings during a communicative event in ways that are appropriate to the context of situation and meaningful to the parties involved.

Following the introduction Johann Fischer will talk about his book chapter on developing mediation skills at university language centres and show how meaningful tasks and scenarios make language learning relevant to the learner. Evdokia Karavas will present a case study on the conceptualisation and operationalisation of linguistic mediation as a testing construct.

Bionotes

Bessie Dendrinou is Professor Emerita and Director of the Research Institute for Multilingualism and Language Policy, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She is Chair of the Central Examination Board for the national foreign language exams in Greece, and president of the [European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism](#) – home to the [Cluster of University Research Units on Multilingualism](#). She has researched and published on European language education policy, multi-/plurilingualism and linguistic mediation, foreign language politics, and global language testing. Her publications appear mainly in English, Greek, but also in Spanish, Portuguese and French.

Johann Fischer is Director of ZESS (Centre for Languages and Transferable Skills) at Georg-August-Universität Göttingen. Head of the Scientific Committee of UNiCert, member of the Board of the German association of university language centres, he has coordinated European Commission and ECML projects. His research and publications are on the implementation of the CEFR, task-based teaching and assessment, staff development and change management.

Evdokia Karavas is Professor of Applied Linguistics at the Department of English Language and Literature, responsible for the preservice teacher training programme, and Deputy Director of the Research Centre for Language Teaching, Testing and Assessment at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens. She is member of the Central Examination Board of the national foreign language exams in Greece. She has done extensive research and published on issues regarding foreign language teaching and testing, as well as on teacher education and training. Her most recent book is *Plurilingualism and Foreign Language Education*. (Pedio Publishers, 2024).