



MULTILINGUALISM IN SOUTH AFRICA

LOCATION: Rm 103-104
7-9 South Leinster Street
Trinity College Dublin
DATE: 12 July 2023

Symposium Programme 12 July 2023

10AM	WELCOME	Professor Lorna Carson, Symposium Convenor
10.15AM	INTRO	Introduction to the BAQONDE project and guests
10.30AM – 11.30AM	TALK 1	Professor Bassey Antia, Professor of Applied Linguistics, University of the Western Cape. <i>Language at UWC: Politics, Policy, Practices, Plans.</i>
11.30AM		Tea/coffee
11.45AM – 12.45PM	TALK 2	Professor Rosemary Wildsmith, Research Professor, North-West University. <i>Implementation of a multilingual language policy at North-West University, South Africa: Achievements and challenges.</i>
2.15PM – 3.15PM	TALK 3	Professor Dion Nkomo, Professor of African Language Studies, Rhodes University. <i>Beyond policies: Considering bottom-up multilingual pedagogical practices in South Africa Higher Education.</i>
3.15PM		Tea/coffee
3.30PM – 4.30PM	TALK 4	Professor Nobuhle Hlongwa, Professor and Dean of the School of Arts. <i>Linguistic Genocide and impediments to transformation and intellectualization of African languages in South African Higher Education.</i>
4.30PM – 5PM	WRAP UP	

Bassey Edem Antia is Professor of Applied Linguistics at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa. A DAAD alumnus and a Humboldt Fellow, he holds a PhD from the University of Bielefeld (Germany). Previous or subsequent qualifications were obtained from Calabar and Lagos (Nigeria), Grenoble (France), and Antwerp (Belgium). He has an extensive network of collaborators globally and is mentor to graduate students and early career academics in several countries, including South Africa, Ghana, Cameroon, Nigeria, Central African Republic, Uganda, Germany, Vietnam and USA. He also advises Vice-Chancellors and other university leaders across Africa. He is a C rated researcher of the National Research Foundation, South Africa. He has received a number of awards, including the Eugen Wüster prize for outstanding achievement in research and teaching in terminology and multilingualism (2017); Award for excellence in teaching and learning of the Higher Education Learning and Teaching Association of Southern Africa/Centre on Higher Education (2017); Institutional teaching excellence award of the University of the Western Cape (2017); Teaching excellence award of the Faculty of Arts, University of the Western Cape (2017).

Dion Nkomo is a Professor of African Language Studies and Chair of the NRF SARChI: Intellectualisation of African Languages, Multilingualism and Education at the School of Languages and Literatures at Rhodes University. He teaches at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels and is also the 2021 postgraduate coordinator in the African Language Studies Section. Dion Nkomo holds a BA. (Hons.) in African Languages from the University of Zimbabwe (2003), an M.Phil. (2008) and a PhD. (2012) in Lexicography from Stellenbosch University, as well as a Post-Graduate Diploma in Higher Education from Rhodes University (2014). Among others, his academic interests include language planning and policy, language teaching, lexicography, translation, terminology, multilingualism and, lately, higher education studies. Dion Nkomo is an African Humanities Programme fellow under the auspices of the American Council of Learned Societies, a recipient of the Vice Chancellor's Distinguished Research Award for 2016, a C2 National Research Foundation rated researcher and a member of the Academy of Science of South Africa (ASSAf).

Nobuhle Hlongwa is Dean & Head of School of Arts at the University of Kwa-Zulu Natal. She has 24 years' experience in academia. She represents the University of KwaZulu-Natal in the Community of Practice for the teaching and learning of African Languages (CoPAL) which forms part of the devolved governance structure of Universities of South Africa (USAF). In January 2023, she assumed the role as the Chairperson of CoPAL. She is a C2 rated social scientist by the National Research Foundation. Her book entitled "Ukuhlelwa Kolimi" translated as Language Planning, published in 2009 is still the only book written in isiZulu in the area of Sociolinguistics. In. She has served as a member of the Ministerial Advisory Panel on the development of African Languages in Higher Education. In 2012 she received Bilingualism/Multilingualism award in the College of Humanities for a commitment to longstanding and sustained promotion of bilingualism at the University and National level. In 2017 she got a Morale Booster Excellence Award in the College of Humanities. In 2018 she was among the top 10 Most published Women Researchers in the College of Humanities.

Rosemary Wildsmith is an applied linguist who is currently coordinating research on multilingual pedagogies at the North-West University. She held the research chair for early childhood development and education from 2015 to 2018. Prof Wildsmith also worked for the University of KwaZulu-Natal as professor of applied linguistics, where she also headed the School of Language, Literature & Linguistics from 2004 to 2011. She has served on provincial and national language bodies for isiZulu and English respectively, and is on the editorial board for Language Teaching: Surveys and Studies. Prof Wildsmith was co-editor of the journal Southern African Linguistics and Applied Language Studies from 2009 to 2012. Her publications focus on multilingualism, language and literacy acquisition, language teaching, language policy and onomastics.



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Symposium Details

The symposium is **free of charge** and will take place as an **in-person event**. Please consult the [permalink](#) for directions to Room 103/104, 7-9 South Leinster Street. The venue is fully accessible.

[Please register for the symposium at this link by 10 July 2023.](#)

The BAQONDE project, co-funded by the European Union's Erasmus+ Programme, aims to build capacity in the area of multilingualism in Higher Education in South Africa. The acronym BAQONDE stands for a word which in Nguni languages means "(let them) understand". In full, BAQONDE stands for "Boosting the Use of African Languages in Education. A Qualified Organized Nationwide Development Strategy for South Africa".

The majority of South African students in the primary, secondary and tertiary education system are home-language speakers of languages other than English. Yet, apart from Afrikaans, indigenous African languages have still not been widely used as a medium of instruction. In other words, the majority of learners do not receive education in their home language(s). Research has underlined the negative impact that this situation can have on students' performance throughout the system as well as the societal impact.

Trinity College Dublin is partnering with four South African universities (Rhodes University, North-West University, University of Kwa-Zulu Natal, University of the Western Cape) and two European universities (Salamanca University, Groningen University) in this capacity-building project to establish a network of African Language Development Units and language resources that can be used and adapted across South Africa. The project has recently launched a new online digital multilingual and multimodal repository for materials designed to foster multilingual teaching in African languages, accessible at this [link](#).

The four talks will also be live streamed and recorded. These will be placed on the BAQONDE project's [website](#) after the event. Should you wish to attend remotely, please register via Zoom at the following link: <https://tcd-ie.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJEkdOGozMuE9D1kqYipXAYRpPP049YDESO>.

The symposium is hosted by the School of Linguistic, Speech and Communication Sciences at Trinity College Dublin, and convened by Professor Lorna Carson, Head of School and Professor in Applied Linguistics. For further information about the event, please email slscs_hos@tcd.ie or visit the project's local webpage <https://www.tcd.ie/slscs/research/projects/current/Baqonde/>.



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