

**A Linguistic Ethnographic Approach to Language Policy:  
Creating Conditions for Co-Design.**

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This talk will begin with a genealogical account of the ways in which the study of language policy has been re-imagined over the last two decades by focusing attention on the ebb and flow of talk and interaction in multilingual classrooms and workplaces. Researchers contributing to this broad movement have combined detailed description and analysis of discourse practices with ethnography. They have provided fine-grained insights into the ways in which students, teachers and work colleagues, in diverse multilingual settings, interpret, respond to and take a particular stance on language policies, and they have illuminated the ways in which policy ‘on paper’ gets translated into particular kinds of communicative practices in the daily rounds of life in classrooms or workplaces. Contributions to this epistemological shift in the study of language policy have been forged within diverse strands of research in sociolinguistics and ethnography, including the ethnography of communication, interactional sociolinguistics, micro-ethnography, critical sociolinguistic ethnography, ethnography of language policy and linguistic ethnography. Moreover, different conceptual compasses and analytic lenses have guided the empirical work in different social and cultural settings. These include concepts such as codeswitching, crossing, languaging and translanguaging. In these diverse ways, we have come to ‘see’ language policy in a new way: not as fixed texts and prescriptions for action, but as complex, situated and multi-layered processes, involving diverse social actors.

Having taken stock of the broad conceptual and empirical terrain we have traversed over the last two decades, I will then sketch out what I see as the journey ahead, towards creating conditions for co-designs and for researchers and practitioners, in different local settings, to jointly identify “preferred futures” (Pennycook, 2001: 8). I will also argue that research of a linguistic ethnographic and linguistic anthropological nature is particularly well suited to this kind of researcher/practitioner collaboration, especially when it involves extended dialogue and reflexive co-construction of knowledge.

Pennycook, A. (2001) *Critical Applied Linguistics*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum

## Biography

Marilyn Martin-Jones is an Emeritus Professor and founding Director of the MOSAIC Centre for Research on Multilingualism. She has been involved in research on multilingualism in different regions of Britain for almost forty years. She has undertaken three broad types of research: (1.) research on the use of multilingual resources in face-to-face interaction; (2.) research on multilingual literacy and the uses of texts, on and offline, in multilingual settings; (3.) ethnographic research related to the multi-layered processes involved in the translation of language policies into classroom practice.

Her research has been primarily sociolinguistic and ethnographic in nature and has been based in different research sites: in urban and rural settings, in community contexts as well as in schools, colleges and classrooms. She has a particular interest in: (1.) the ways in which language and literacy practices are bound up with asymmetries of power and with language ideologies in different social and institutional contexts; and (2.) the ways in which the use of different multilingual and semiotic resources are drawn upon in the construction of identities in local life worlds and in trans-local contexts.

She was co-editor (with Alexandra Jaffe) of the international journal *Linguistics and Education*, from 2004 – 2007. She is currently editing a book series (with Joan Pujolar) entitled: *Critical Studies in Multilingualism* (Routledge). Her recent publications include:

- Gardner, S. and Martin-Jones, M. (Eds.) (2012) *Multilingualism, discourse and ethnography*. New York: Routledge
- Martin-Jones, M. Blackledge, A. & Creese, A. (2015) (Eds.) *The Routledge handbook of multilingualism*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge. [Paperback]
- Martin-Jones, M. and Martin, D.M. (Eds.) (forthcoming) *Researching multilingualism: critical and ethnographic perspectives*. Abingdon, Oxon: Routledge. [Paperback]