Call for papers

XVIII CercleS International Conference 2024

Multilingualism and the Anglosphere

12-14 September 2024, Durham University, UK

hosted by AULC

(the Association of University Language Communities in the UK & Ireland)

CercleS – the European Confederation of Language Centres in Higher Education – is pleased to invite you to the XVIII CercleS International Conference 2024, "*Multilingualism & the Anglosphere"* between 12-14 September 2024.

As our communities have emerged from the pandemic, the previous two CercleS conferences in Brno (2020) and Porto (2022) have each looked towards a future, where language centres explore different pathways in an increasingly digital world. The 2024 conference in Durham wishes to continue and develop the narratives that have arisen from these past conferences. The 2024 conference will take place in Durham, and our theme of 'Multilingualism in the Anglosphere' recognises our collective interest in multilingualism, with the predominance of English as a second language of tuition across Europe, discussed in the United Kingdom. In the UK, the value placed on the learning of languages other than English is reduced by the fact that English is so widely studied as a second language. Nevertheless, from a UK perspective we recognise that language and inter-cultural skills remain critical for our international endeavours, and that in a globally connected world, English will never be enough. Furthermore, the UK is itself a multilingual country, with a small but significant proportion of our fellow citizens speaking other first languages. Whilst the value of the study of English is recognised for its value, it is equally important to maintain a breadth of language competence across all languages to address the challenges and opportunities of the future. As such, the XVIII CercleS conference in Durham intends to be a celebration of multilingualism, and to explore how we, as a community of international scholars, will continue to support multilingual approaches that include global English and all other languages.

For this conference, we would like to attract abstracts that respond to the core interests of our community and will allow us to collectively engage in sharing best practices for teaching and learning to inspire our students, support our colleagues, and identify areas for development and improvement.

We now call for contributions including, but not necessarily limited to, the thematic areas below. Some further suggestions for topics of interest within these themes can be found on the conference website: CercleS 2024 - Durham University. Abstract submission deadline is **Friday 16 February 2024**.

Any questions, email the conference organising team cercles.2024@durham.ac.uk.

Conference Themes

1. Language policy and politics
2. The Future University Language Centre
3. Professional development of language centre teachers and staff
4. Multilingualism and plurilingualism
5. Less-commonly taught languages
6. Inter-cultural communication and competence in language education
7. The role of technology and artificial intelligence in language learning and teaching
8. Global English
9. Assessment and testing
10. Learning with others
11. Learning & teaching resources
12. Critical pedagogies

Abstracts:

Abstracts should be submitted in two of the working languages of the conference: Arabic, Chinese, English, French, German, Italian and Spanish. Abstracts should be up to 300 words in length, including:

- Presenter(s) name, including identified lead presenter for contact purposes.
- Institution and email address
- Biographical note (80-100 words)
- Submission format (see below)
- Title
- Conference theme (1-12 as above)
- Abstract in primary language (250-300 words)
- Abstract in second language
- 3-5 keywords

We invite the following formats:

- Oral presentation, by individuals or small groups of individuals, of 20 minutes duration (plus time for questions)
- Interactive workshops, of up to 60 minutes duration
- Poster presentations, especially from postgraduate students and early career academic colleagues. Prizes for the 3 best posters will be awarded. Formats for posters will be communicated after the call has closed.

Presentations and workshops may be delivered in one of the languages of the conference.

Time will be made available in the programme for teacher meet-ups and Focus Group activities, and Focus Group convenors do not need to submit abstracts for review.

Abstracts should be submitted via EasyChair using this link. If you do not already have one, you will be asked to set up an EasyChair account when you first try to log in.