



# **BILINGUALISM** MATTERS

## **10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Annual Event**

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 16:30 to 18:45**

**Informatics Forum,  
Crichton Street,  
University of Edinburgh,  
EH8 9AB**





# Contents

Programme .....	2
Biographies .....	3

## Programme

<b>16:00</b>	<b>Registration</b> with tea, coffee with traybakes available	
<b>16:30</b>	<b>Invited Talks</b>	
	Welcome	<b>Prof Peter Mathieson</b> <i>Principal of the University of Edinburgh</i>
	Bilingualism Matters: 10 years on	<b>Prof Antonella Sorace</b> <i>Director of Bilingualism Matters, University of Edinburgh</i>
	Bilingualism Matters: the International Network	<b>Prof Judith F. Kroll</b> <i>Co-director of Bilingualism Matters, University of California Riverside</i> <b>Prof Covadonga Lamar Prieto</b> <i>Co-director of Bilingualism Matters, University of California Riverside</i>
	10 years of Research in Bilingualism: what have we learned? (title tbc)	<b>Dr Thomas Bak</b> <i>Co-director of Bilingualism Matters, University of Edinburgh</i>
	Scotland China Education Network	<b>Simon Macaulay</b> <i>Director of SCEN</i>
	What impact has the British Sign Language (Scotland) Act 2015 had so far on provision for families of deaf children?	<b>Dr Rachel O'Neil</b> <i>Moray House School of Education University of Edinburgh</i>
	The story of Gaelic Medium Education in the City of Edinburgh	<b>Anne MacPhail</b> <i>Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, Edinburgh</i>
<b>17:45</b>	<b>Bilingual Conversations</b>	
	Discussion about bilingualism with community members and our speakers	Led by <b>Susan Morrison</b>
	Question & answer session	
<b>18:15</b>	<b>Networking</b> with drinks and nibbles	
<b>18:45</b>	<b>Close</b>	

## Biographies



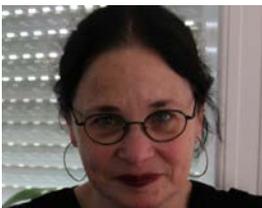
**Professor Peter Mathieson** MBBS(Hons)(London), PhD(Cambridge), FRCP(London), FMedSci assumed the office of Principal and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Edinburgh in February 2018. He was formerly the 15th President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong.

Previous posts include: foundation Professor of Renal Medicine at the University of Bristol, Honorary Consultant Nephrologist, North Bristol NHS Trust, Head of the University Department of Clinical Science at North Bristol, Director of Research & Development for the North Bristol NHS Trust, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry at the University of Bristol, 15th President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Hong Kong.



**Antonella Sorace** is Professor of Developmental Linguistics at the University of Edinburgh. She is a world-leading authority and has published widely on bilingualism and language learning over the lifespan, language typology, and gradience in natural language, bringing together methods from linguistics, experimental psychology and cognitive science.

She is also committed to disseminating the findings of research on bilingualism outside academia. She founded Bilingualism Matters in September 2008 as a local research-based information service for parents and teachers focusing on the facts, benefits and challenges of early bilingualism. Over the last 10 years, she has opened over 20 branches of Bilingualism Matters around the world.



**Judith F. Kroll** is Distinguished Professor of Psychology at the University of California, Riverside and the former director of the Center for Language Science at Pennsylvania State University. She is co-director of Bilingualism Matters at UC Riverside, which opened in October 2017.

Her research uses the tools of cognitive neuroscience to examine the way that bilinguals juggle the presence of two languages in one mind and brain. Her work shows that bilingualism provides a tool for revealing the interplay between language and cognition that is otherwise obscure in speakers of one language alone. She was one of the founding editors of the journal *Bilingualism: Language and Cognition* (Cambridge University Press), and one of the founding organizers of Women in Cognitive Science, a group developed to promote the advancement of women in the cognitive sciences (<http://womenincogsci.org/>).



**Covadonga Lamar Prieto** is an Associate Professor in the Dept. of Hispanic Studies in the University of California Riverside. She and Professor Judith F. Kroll co-direct Bilingualism Matters at UC Riverside. She specializes in Sociolinguistics of the Spanish in the US. Her corpus-based research deals with Historical Spanish in California, with a focus on language change, dialectology and bilingualism. Her book *El español de California en el XIX (Iberoamericana, 2018)* examines the sociolinguistic situation of Spanish in Nineteenth-Century California and the social, linguistic and economic issues of the Spanish speaking inhabitants of California after and before the Annexation to the US. She is also interested in the contemporary consequences of historical language contact. Besides being a Linguist, Covadonga is a Colonialist. She specializes in Colonial Mexico and the cultural production of the first Criollos: how these Criollos defined their new transatlantic identity, and the way they used to examine their society through literature



Born and raised in Cracow, Poland, Dr **Thomas H Bak** studied medicine in Germany and Switzerland, obtaining his doctorate with a thesis on acute aphasia (language disorders caused by brain diseases such as stroke) at the University of Freiburg im Breisgau in Germany. He worked clinically in psychiatry, neurology and neurosurgery in Basel, Bern, Berlin and Cambridge.

In 2006, he moved to Edinburgh where he continues to work on the interaction between language, motor and cognitive functions in patients with neurodegenerative diseases such as different types of dementia and Motor Neurone Disease. Since 2010, he is the president of the World Federation of Neurology Research Group on Aphasia, Dementia and Cognitive Disorders (WFN RG ADCD), since 2016, Strand Leader for “Multilingualism: Cognition, Health and Well-being” of the AHRC Project “Multilingualism: Empowering Individuals, Transforming Societies” and Co-Director of Bilingualism Matters.

Dr. Bak’s recent work focuses on the impact of language learning and multilingualism on cognitive functions across the lifespan and in brain diseases such as dementia and stroke. His studies include a wide range of populations across the world, from students to elderly, from early childhood bilinguals to second languages learners, from Scotland, through Malta, Saudi Arabia and India to China and Singapore.



**Simon Macaulay** is Chair of the Scotland China Education Network (SCEN). He succeeded Judith McClure CBE to that position in July 2018. Previously Simon was Depute Chair. SCEN is a registered charity the main function of which is the promotion of learning Chinese and about China in schools in Scotland.

Simon was born, brought up and educated in the Highlands of Scotland. He was a student in the University of Edinburgh, where he gained a degree in French and European Institutions, and later, a teaching qualification from Moray House.

He taught English in the University of Nice (France) and French in the Western Isles. He worked for many years for the Educational Institute of Scotland, latterly as Assistant General Secretary.

Simon chaired the Scottish Government's 1 + 2 Language Working group which published its recommendations in 2012.



**Anne MacPhail** has been headteacher at Edinburgh's Gaelic medium primary school, Bun-sgoil Taobh na Pàirce, since it opened in 2013. Born into a Gaelic-speaking family, with close links to the islands of Harris and Tiree, Anne has witnessed the change in status of the Gaelic language over the last 30 years, and the increased interest in Gaelic medium education.



**Rachel O'Neill** is a lecturer in deaf education at the School of Education, University of Edinburgh, where she is responsible for the deaf education pathway. This is the course which teachers of deaf children take to qualify. She is currently researching the views of families living on a low income when they have a deaf child, particularly looking at issue of access to knowledge about language development. She is currently the chair of the University working group on BSL, which has to produce a plan under the BSL Act by this October.



**Susan Morrison** is a stand-up comedian and radio presenter. As well as her own regular comedy shows, Susan has been a frequent contributor to BBC Radio Scotland. In addition to regular appearances on the "The Fred MacAulay Show", she has recently presented radio documentaries on subjects as diverse as the history of toilets ("On The Throne") and the positive effects of laughter ("Laughter - the Best Medicine"). Until recently, Susan co-presented The Morning Show on Edinburgh talk radio station Talk 107 each weekday.

She is the cabaret compere for The Cabaret of Dangerous Ideas at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival, which is an informal platform for academics and researchers to engage with the public on an array of topics, and is experienced in guiding audiences through a wide range of topics with quick-thinking wit and creativity.