

CIRCLE U. MULTILINGUALISM WEEK

INTERCULTURAL LAB

SEMINAR ON MULTILINGUALISM

An initiative of the Circle U. Think and Do Tank

King's College London

5-8 September 2022



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CIRCLE U. BRINGS HIGH THE STAKE OF MULTILINGUALISM IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The [European University Circle U.](#) brings together Aarhus Universitet, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, King's College London, Универзитет у Београду / Univerzitet u Beogradu, Universitetet i Oslo, Université catholique de Louvain, Université Paris Cité, Universität Wien and Università di Pisa. The “European Universities” initiative, which promotes cutting-edge teaching and research in Europe, is supported by the European Commission. Our goal is to build an inter-university ecosystem and make Circle U. an inclusive, research-intensive and interdisciplinary European university where students, staff and partners from civil society, businesses and the public sector collaborate to jointly develop competencies and solutions.

The role of multilingualism in shaping the future of higher education is considered of utmost importance in Circle U.: it is one of the two focuses of the Circle U. Think and Do Tank. Knowing more than one language stimulates a globally-oriented education. Composed of privileged institutions for language learning, the Circle U. alliance and its Think and Do Tank, as outlined in the [White Paper “Shaping the Future of Higher Education in a Changing World”](#), will raise the awareness of multilingualism as a resource for a sustainable approach to education that involves cooperation, active, intercultural and interdisciplinary learning, critical thinking and social inclusion.

The programme of the Multilingualism Week is sponsored by [Circle U. Think and Do Tank on the Future of Higher Education](#) and reflects its particular features: i) it connects students, researchers and other external stakeholders to contribute to and influence the debate on the future of higher education, ii) it is pedagogically driven, bringing together thinkers and doers to improve teaching practices and to transform the universities from within, iii) it stimulates a culture of sharing and learning from others, emphasising and acknowledging that successful transfer of knowledge is about translating new insights into specific national, cultural and institutional settings, iv) it seeks to be directly linked to policymakers, so that new knowledge, findings and actions can easily influence the policy-making process.

The task force on multilingualism of the Think and Do Tank has identified that initiatives should take place at three complementary levels:

- 1 At the individual level, by building networks between students and researchers involved in multilingualism,
- 2 At the local and institutional levels, by fostering innovation in language learning within the existing curricula, and creating opportunities to learn languages outside the physical university context such as the development of blended or online learning initiatives,
- 3 More broadly, at the national and international levels, by advocating for stronger policies and funding to learn and use foreign languages at the partner universities.

The programme of the Multilingualism Week is an operational translation of such needs. The kick-off event will be the Intercultural LAB, a three-day workshop on intercultural skills conceived as complementary training for the Circle U. students that followed the [online language courses of King's College London](#). Thereafter, the Think and Do Tank will hold an internal session to discuss how multilingual practices might be a means toward sustainable education.

On September 8 afternoon, the large public will be able to attend online two activities on the programme: a Think and Do Tank Café and a Policy roundtable on multilingualism.

INTERCULTURAL LAB

The Intercultural LAB is a series of three-day workshops on intercultural skills conceived as complementary training for the Circle U. students that followed the online language courses of King's College London. It is the first initiative of hybrid learning implemented by Circle U. and it has been co-organised by the Think and Do Tank (WP6) and the Task Force Blended Learning (WP2) of the alliance.

Date: Monday 5th , Tuesday 6th and Wednesday 7th of September 2022.

Place: King's College London, London, room TBC.

Intervenants: Prof. Donata Puntil and Prof. Kyriaki Koukouraki.

Target audience: Circle U. students and professors engaged in the language modules and other Circle U. staff interested or with experience in the topic (registrations are closed).

Objectives

During the LAB, participants will explore the concept of *Intercultural Competence* and link it to their personal experience and to the skills, knowledge and attitudes required to be interculturally competent. Other concepts that will be addressed are the notion of *Embodied Interculturality* and the idea of *Belonging* as a fluid movement across cultures, times, places, identities and communities. Art-based Research Methodologies (ABR) will be briefly explored as well. The focus will also shift to *Global Citizenship* and to *Interdisciplinarity* in Higher Education to explore the idea of moving across and between disciplines and communities of practice and how this process might be shaped by individuals and "their Culture(s)".

Participants will undertake a final mini-project to share with the others and will think about how to integrate and use these experiences in their personal and academic life. The expected outcome of the LAB is a toolkit on intercultural skills training for the Circle U. community (both students and staff).

A completed programme of this LAB will be sent to registered participants.

THINK AND DO TANK SESSION

Date: Thursday 8th of September 2022.

Time: 09.00 – 14.00 (GW time).

Place: Bush House, King's College London, London, room TBC.

Target audience: Circle U. Think and Do Tank members.

Objectives

The two core topics of Circle U. Think and Do Tank are sustainable education and multilingualism. A task force is dedicated to make clear the landscape of multilingualism in higher education, Circle U. experience and capacities, outcomes, difficulties in the implementation, levers and barriers. Beside the regular exchanges organised between the experts, two questionnaires have been launched, one to state the situation in each university and the second (on-going) to stress the needs of the students. Getting a common understanding of what is and can bring sustainable education is the thematic of a common research project handled by the Academic Chairs of the Think and Do Tank in which six students are engaged. The moment has come to intricate the insights of both workgroups and discuss how multilingual practices might be a means toward sustainable education in higher education.

A completed programme of this meeting will be sent to the members of the Circle U. Think and Do Tank.

THINK AND DO TANK CAFÉ

« Exploring PhD students' language learning groups at Circle U. universities »

Date: Thursday 8th of September 2022

Time: 14.30 – 15.30 (GW time)

Place: Bush House, King's College London, London, room TBC, and online.

Target audience: Circle U. community and other external stakeholders interested in multilingualism (Registration open only to online participants).

Objectives

The *Circle U. Think & Do Tank Cafés* gather initiatives on pedagogical innovation from the different Circle U. universities regularly. They form a network of innovators in pedagogy, to empower them, develop ways to evaluate the competencies acquired and work towards the recognition of the new training path being proposed.

On this occasion, we will explore how informal learning groups of PhD students succeed at improving oral skills in other languages through thematic discussions around their own research work. One of the expected outcomes is the onset of a Circle U. online community of PhD students willing to discuss specific research topics in other languages.

A completed programme of this workshop will be sent to registered participants.

POLICY ROUNDTABLE ON MULTILINGUALISM IN HIGHER EDUCATION

Date: Thursday, 8th of September 2022

Time: 16.00 – 19.00 (GW time)

Place: Bush House, King's College London, London, room TBC, and online.

Target audience: Circle U. community and other external stakeholders interested in multilingualism (Registration open only to online participants).

Objectives

By the end of the pilot period of the Circle U. project in October 2023, the aim of the Think and Do Tank is to organise a High-Level Meeting on Multilingualism to deliver a policy paper on multilingualism based on the meeting with national and European politicians on the topic. As a prior step, the goal of this policy roundtable is to further explore the obstacles and opportunities related to the alliance's ambition of increasing multilingual practices and opportunities at our home universities and advocate for the recognition of the richness of multilingualism at a national and European level.

The panel discussion will group actors tackling the same issue from different perspectives: the promotion of multilingual activities within the alliance EUTOPIA, the implementation of language policies at the University of Copenhagen, the example of the multilingual university of Bozen-Bolzano, a representative from the German-Serbian Chamber of Industry and Commerce, a multilingual student who will explain their educational, and a neuropsychologist who has been exploring the relationship between multilingualism, cognitive functions and wellbeing.

Programme

16:00 Welcoming and presentation of the Circle U. alliance and its Think and Do Tank

16:15 Presentations of the panellists – (10 min. each presentation)

- **Anne Holmen (online)** *Multilingualism among university employees and students. Does a language policy make a difference?*
- **Maria Cristina Gatti** *The example of a multilingual university: Free University of Bozen-Bolzano.*
- **Jo Angouri** *Multilingual practices in EUTOPIA European University.*
- **Student (name TBC)** *The value of multilingualism for students and their language learning educational path.*
- **Representative of German-Serbian Chamber of Commerce AHK Serbia (name TBC)** *The value of multilingualism in international commerce.*
- **Thomas Bak** *Multilingualism, cognitive functions and wellbeing.*

17:15 Coffee break

17:45 Panel discussion on the promotion of multilingualism in higher education

18:45 Closing remarks

19:00 Dinner

A completed programme of this roundtable will be sent to registered participants.

Contact

For more information and online registration: ana-elvira.garcia-lopez@u-paris.fr

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