



THE UNIVERSITY OF
SYDNEY

Italian Studies Research Seminar Series
Department of Linguistics
European Studies Program
present



Kristine Horner,
University of Sheffield
Constructing the Ideal
Citizen-Speaker as
Monolingual?
Language as Site
of Struggle in
Multilingual
Luxembourg

When

Thursday 11 August
4:15pm

Where

SLC Common Room
536
Brennan MacCallum
Building

More information

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To find out more, visit
sydney.edu.au/arts/italian

The discursive turn in sociolinguistics and related interest in exploring acts of compliance and resistance to language policy resonates with related developments in the social sciences. This presentation focuses on sociolinguistic debates on language testing and citizenship legislation in Luxembourg, which is designated as a trilingual country, officially recognising three languages in its language law of 1984: Luxembourgish as the national language, and French and/or German as legal, judicial and administrative languages. Luxembourgish presents the somewhat paradoxical case of being a small and mostly spoken language that is officially recognised as the national language of Luxembourg. Although Luxembourgish is not widely used for functions linked to standardised written languages, the 2008 citizenship law has introduced formalised language testing in Luxembourgish. Recent citizenship legislation thus signals a potential shift away from the 'ideal' trilingual citizen towards the 'ideal' citizen-speaker being first and foremost a speaker of Luxembourgish.

Kristine Horner is Reader in Luxembourg Studies and Multilingualism at the University of Sheffield, where she is also Director of the Centre for Luxembourg Studies. She has published widely in the areas of language politics, language ideologies and multilingualism, including special issues of *Language Problems and Language Planning* (John Benjamins, 2009) and the *Journal of Germanic Linguistics* (Cambridge University Press, 2011). Her most recent major publications are the books *Introducing Multilingualism: A Social Approach* (co-authored with J-J. Weber; Routledge, 2012) and *Multilingualism and Mobility in Europe: Policies and Practices* (co-edited with I. de Saint-Georges and J-J. Weber; Peter Lang, 2014). Currently, she is writing a monograph on language politics and the discourses of endangerment, integration and citizenship in Luxembourg and leading the Worldwide Universities Network on Multilingualism and Mobility in the Northern and Southern Hemispheres.