

PLM 2018 thematic workshop

Multilingualism and multimodality across periods, languages and channels: in search of patterns

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The theme of the workshop addresses the gap in theoretical frameworks for studying written multilingualism, in particular with a view to the semiotics of written texts, literacy practices and multimodal contextualisation cues (Sebba 2012: 2). It aims to bring together research on historical and contemporary data across different languages, channels and forms of communication in search of some recognisable and emerging patterns. Such patterns must have emerged in the course of the evolution of human language faculty and are linked to language change, but they also emerge and transform in relation to technological inventions such as writing, print or multimedia. As multilingual practices in any permanent medium at any point in time will immediately be mediated through a range of multimodal cues, ranging from the handwritten page to the broad spectrum of CMC modes, the link between the many languages, many voices and many channels of meaning-making is a significant one. Such interfaces are encompassed by the view of multilingual texts as communicative objects and involves in particular the following aspects of their investigation:

- visual aspects of code-switching, e.g. space management, script or type size, ink colours, punctuation (Machan 2011)
- processes of conventionalisation and pragmaticalisation of visual and linguistic marking of language boundaries/ switches across time, space and genres
- local and global discourse functions of CS phenomena in written or digital data, including (social) identity construction
- textual multilingualism against the background of cultural & social functions of codes/languages in multilingual communities
- scribal and printing practices in multilingual texts, their patterns and constraints
- issues of vernacularisation and language standardisation, including *Ausbau* phenomena in multilingual contexts
- theoretical and methodological aspects of language mixing and boundary marking, e.g. through flagging, and their interfaces with multimodality
- digitisation and digital presentation of multilingual and multimodal features of historical and contemporary texts in electronic editions, databases and corpora

Proposed participants:

Elżbieta Adamczyk (Adam Mickiewicz University & Bergische Universität Wuppertal)
Mareike Keller (University of Mannheim)
Joanna Kopaczyk (University of Glasgow)
Matylda Włodarczyk (Adam Mickiewicz University)

Submission of abstracts will take place according to the guidelines on the PLM website <http://wa.amu.edu.pl/plm/2018/>. The deadline for submission to this session will be March 22nd, 2018.

Sample bibliography:

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- Kopaczyk, Joanna. 2013. Code-switching in the records of a Scottish brotherhood in early modern Poland-Lithuania. *Poznań Studies in Contemporary Linguistics* 49(3). 281– 319.
- Kopaczyk, Joanna. 2017. Administrative multilingualism on the page in early modern Poland: In search of a framework for written code-switching, in L. Wright et al. (eds.) *Multilingual practices in language history: New perspectives*. Berlin: Mouton.
- Kopaczyk, Joanna, Matylda Włodarczyk, Elżbieta Adamczyk. 2016. Medieval multilingualism in Poland: Creating a Corpus of Greater Poland Court Oaths (ROThA). *Poznań Studies in Contemporary Linguistics* 51(3). 9-35.
- Machan, Tim William. 2011. The visual pragmatics of code-switching in late Middle English literature. In Herbert Schendl & Laura Wright (eds.), *Code-switching in Early English*, 303–333. Berlin: Mouton de Gruyter.
- Mufwene, Salikoko S. 2008. *Language evolution: Contact, competition and change*. London: Continuum.
- Nurmi, Arja, Tanja Rütten & Päivi Pahta (eds.). 2017. *Challenging the myth of monolingual corpora*. Amsterdam: Brill/ Rodopi.
- Pahta, Päivi. 2012. Code-switching in English of the Middle Ages. In *The Oxford handbook of the history of English*, ed. by Terttu Nevalainen and Elizabeth C. Traugott, 528-537. New York: Oxford University Press.
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- Schendl, Herbert & Laura Wright. 2011. Code switching in early English: Historical background and methodological and theoretical issues. In Herbert Schendl & Laura Wright (eds.), *Code-switching in early English*, 15–45. Berlin: Walter de Gruyter.
- Sebba, Mark. 2012. Researching and theorising multilingual texts. In Mark Sebba, Shahrzad Mahootian & Carla Jonsson (eds.), *Language mixing and code-switching in writing. Approaches to mixed-language written discourse*, 1–26. London: Routledge.
- Wright, Laura. 2001. Models of language mixing: Code-switching versus semicommunication in medieval Latin and Middle English accounts. In Dieter Kastovsky & Arthur Mettinger (eds.), *Language contact in the history of English*, 363–376. Frankfurt: Peter Lang.