The 50th Anniversary Celebration Conference

12th June 2015

Department of Applied Linguistics and Communication
Birkbeck, University of London
The 50th Anniversary Conference
Department of Applied Linguistics and Communication, Birkbeck, University of London

Conference Date: 12th June 2015

The 50th Anniversary Conference is the finale to our year of celebrations. During the 2014/15 academic year we will showcase our research throughout the day and invite academic staff, students and members of the public to join us in discussions and debates about the future of Applied Linguistics.

Past 50th Anniversary Events

27 October 2014 - Tasks vs. Conditions: Influences on second language performance
Professor Peter Skehan

7 November 2014 - A multilingual approach to analysing test results and the role of languages spoken in a bi-/multilingual community
Dr Gessica De Angelis

26 January 2015 - English as a lingua franca: Fetishism and critique
Dr John O’Regan

27 February 2015 - The Social Psychology of Communication and Living with Dementia
Dr Tony Young

18 March 2015 - Internationalisation on campus – or is it?
Professor Jennifer Jenkins

30 April 2015 - Bilingualism and cognition: myths, mysteries and methodological nightmares
Dr Thomas Bak

You can view recordings and read blogs about these talks on our website at: www.bbk.ac.uk/linguistics.

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A Brief History of Applied Linguistics at Birkbeck: 1960s to the present day

In 1965, the Birkbeck Language Research Centre was founded by Michel Blanc with financial support from the Nuffield Foundation. This interdisciplinary group, drawing staff with expertise in various aspects of language learning and teaching from French, Spanish and Psychology, initiated a program of research and teaching in Applied Linguistics which was unique in the United Kingdom. For over five decades, our department has made significant contributions to the international academic and research community. We have longstanding expertise in the social, cultural, political, educational, psychological and neurological aspects of language. From an early focus on second language learning and teaching, our pursuits now encompass multilingualism and intercultural communication. We have been responsible for the teaching and training of hundreds of students at undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral level. Our alumni have taken up leading positions throughout the world.

See more history about the department on page 17

Programme
12th June 2015

10:00am-10:30am
Arrival and registration (tea & coffee)

10:30am-10:45am
Welcome speech
Prof Miriam Zukas (Executive Dean, School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy)
Prof Greg Myers (BAAL Chair)

10:45am -11:10am
Mapping Applied Linguistics
Dr. Paul Meara (Swansea University)

11:10am-11:35am
Translanguaging Business
Prof. Zhu Hua, Dr. Agnieszka Lyons and Prof. Li Wei (Birkbeck and UCL IOE)

11:35am-12:00pm
What a difference the Channel makes! Language change in London and Paris.
Prof. Penelope Gardener-Chloros, Prof. Jenny Cheshire and Dr. Maria Secova (Birkbeck, Queen Mary and University of Bath)

12:00pm-12:25pm
Psychotherapy across Languages
Prof. Jean-Marc Dewaele and Dr. Beverley Costa (Birkbeck and Mothertongue)

12:25-1:30pm
Lunch and Poster Presentations

1:30pm-1:55pm
Foreign language teaching and learning in the 19th century
Prof. Marjorie Lorch (Birkbeck)

1:55pm-2:00pm
Language Policy and the United Nations: Diplomatic Baggage or Passport to Success?
Dr. Lisa McEntee-Atalianis (Birkbeck)

2:20pm-2:45pm
Authorship and audience construction in three genres of knowledge dissemination
Dr. Bojana Petrić (Birkbeck)

2:45pm-3:10pm
Corpus Pragmatics: The effect of data collection methods on the production of requests in English
Prof. Ronald Geluykens (University of Oldenburg)

3:10-3:30pm
Break

3:30pm-4:30pm
Roundtable discussion on The Future of Applied Linguistics
Panel: Prof. Claire Kramsch, Prof. Mike Baynham, Prof. Ben Rampton, Prof. Adam Jaworski, Prof. Tim McNamara, Prof. Greg Myers (UC Berkeley, University of Leeds, Kings College, University of Hong Kong, The University of Melbourne and Lancaster University)

4:30pm
Closing speech
AILA President Prof. Claire Kramsch
Mapping Applied Linguistics
10:45am - 11:10am

Dr. Paul Meara
Swansea University

Paul Meara was a founder member of the Department of Applied Linguistics at Birkbeck. He served as Acting Head of Department in 1980, and as Head of Department from 1988-1990, when he moved to Swansea University.

Paul is best known for his work on vocabulary acquisition, and for the part-time distance learning PhD program that he set up at Swansea - both of these things grew out of his experience at Birkbeck.

Paul retired in 2010, but continues to be an active researcher. Tools for Researching Vocabulary is due out later this year. His next book, Boolean Lexicons, combines his vocabulary work with an interest in computer models.

Paul currently holds a visiting Professorships in Cardiff and Edinburgh, and an Honorary Research Fellowship in Oxford.

Translanguaging Business
11:10am - 11:35am

This paper will illustrate how you can use citation data to produce bibliometric maps that summarise the main trends in a research field such as Applied Linguistics. The maps discussed in this paper are based on co-citation data from the papers that appeared in the journal Applied Linguistics between 1980 and 2010. Some practical issues that arise when you work with data of this sort are discussed, and some problems in how the resulting maps should be interpreted will be illustrated.

Prof. Zhu Hua
Birkbeck


Prof. Li Wei
UCL Institute of Education

Li Wei is currently Chair of Applied Linguistics at the UCL Institute of Education. He was until December 2014 Professor of Applied Linguistics at Birkbeck where he continues to be a Co-Investigator on the AHRC project. His recent publications include Translanguaging: Language, Bilingualism and Education (with Ofelia Garcia, 2014, Palgrave Macmillan), Applied Linguistics (2014, Wiley-Blackwell), and the Cambridge Handbook of Linguistic Multi-competence (with Vivian Cook, in press).

Dr. Agnieszka Lyons
Birkbeck

Agnieszka Lyons is Research Fellow at Birkbeck, University of London. Her research interests include multimodal and mediated discourse analysis, intercultural communication as well as text-based mobile and electronically mediated communication, particularly in the context of establishing reference frame and enacting physicality. She is interested in the notion of evoked multimodality and narrativity in text-based discourse. Prior to joining Birkbeck, she received a PhD at Queen Mary, University of London. Her most recent contributions are “Multimodality” in Research Methods in Intercultural Communication (ed. Zhu Hua, in press, Blackwell) and “Storyworld in Text-Messages: Sequentiality and Spatialisation" in Narrative Theory, Literature, and New Media: Narrative Minds and Virtual Worlds (eds. Hatakara, Hyvärinen, Mäkelä and Mäyrä, in press, Routledge).
What a difference the Channel makes!
Language change in London and Paris

11:35am - 12:00pm

In this paper we report on the results of the ESRC-funded project on Multicultural London English/Multicultural Paris French (2010-2014). Both London and Paris are large European metropolises with significant populations of immigrant origin. The project set out to discover whether a ‘multiethnolect’ is developing in Paris, as has been found in London and several other Northern European cities, i.e. a set of innovative features originating in the speech of multiethnic, multilingual friendship groups, and used by young people regardless of ethnic background, including the local ‘Anglo’ – or in this case ‘Franco’ – population.

Intriguingly, we were unable to find evidence of such a variety in Paris. There are new discourse features, for example general extenders like et tout (‘and all’), and new quotative expressions, such as the use of genre in a way that parallels English be like, that appear to be spreading among young people regardless of their ethnicity and friendship network, but there is no evidence that these innovations originate in multiethnic friendship groups. Other new features – phonological, lexical and syntactic – correspond to social and ethnic identities and do not appear to be used by Franco speakers.

We will give quantitative examples of these results, and we will ask why there should be such a difference between Paris and London. We ascribe the contrast to a range of factors including different policies on multiculturalism; different national ideologies regarding the standard language and the use of languages of origin, notably in schools; differences in the physical implantation of the immigrant communities in the two cities; and differences in the sense of inclusion/exclusion of the young people themselves. As such, our results underscore the strong relationship, which is at the core of sociolinguistics, between specific social conditions and the modalities of language change.

Penelope Gardner-Chloros is Professor of Sociolinguistics and Language Contact at Birkbeck and is herself a graduate of the Department (MA 1979-81). She specialises in the study of bilingual communities and individuals, particularly those involving minority languages. Her most recent book is Code-switching (CUP 2009).

Dr. Maria Secova is Lecturer in the Department of French, University of Bath. She has a doctorate and several publications on variation and change in young people’s French. From 2010-2014 she was postdoctoral researcher on an ESRC-funded project comparing Multicultural London English with Multicultural Paris French, on which the other two authors were investigators.

References


Language and Psychoanalysis 1, 18-40; reprinted in (2013) Counselling and Psychotherapy Research, 14, 235-244.


12:00pm - 12:25pm

Psychotherapy across Languages

Working across languages is vital in the delivery of mental health services throughout Europe for multilingual clients and therapists. We will report on a joint, mixed-method research project (Costa & Dewaele, 2012). The study, which won the Equality and Diversity Research Award in 2013 from the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy, compared the ways in which monolingual and multilingual therapists work with clients who do not have English as L1. A significant number of multilingual therapists tended to view their ability to share a language as positive with respect to their capacity for attunement with the client. Monolingual therapists, on the other hand, viewed language sharing with the client as a possible source of collusive behaviour in the therapeutic relationship. These findings were contrasted with subsequent research with multilingual clients (Dewaele & Costa, 2013) about the importance for multilingual clients to feel that code-switching (CS) is possible in therapy and that their multilingualism is appreciated. Clients were found to initiate and use significantly more CS than their therapists, typically when the emotional tone is raised. CS is used strategically when discussing episodes of trauma and shame, and regulates proximity or distance.

Multilingual therapists are recruited for their language skills but often they will not work in their primary language as they feel deskillled. Managers frequently expect them to be able to work in different languages without understanding the complexity of the task. As a result, multilingual patients often receive a less than adequate service. Multilingual therapists are often concerned that they do not have terms or appropriate language for their work; working in a language shared with clients when English is not their L1 often affects the therapeutic relationship; therapists may feel they only have a professional identity in the language in which they were trained.

Jean-Marc Dewaele is Professor of Applied Linguistics and Multilingualism. He investigates individual differences in psycholinguistic, sociolinguistic, pragmatic, psychological and emotional aspects of bi- and multilingualism. He has published widely including the monograph Emotions in Multiple Languages (2nd ed in 2013). He is Vice-President of the International Association of Multilingualism, Convenor of the AILA Research Network on Multilingualism and is former president of the European Second Language Association. He is General Editor of the International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism.

Dr Beverley Costa (DPsych, UKCP reg. Psychotherapist) trained as a group and individual psychotherapist and as psychodramatist. She is CEO and Clinical Director of Mothertongue, which she set up in 2000. It is a culturally and linguistically sensitive therapeutic support service for people from black and minority ethnic communities, which runs a dedicated Mental Health Interpreting Service. Mothertongue won the 2008 Award for Excellence in the Practice of Counselling and Psychotherapy from the British Association for Counselling and Psychotherapy and in 2009, The Queen’s Award for Volunteering.

Prof. Penelope Gardner-Chloros
Birkbeck

Prof. Jenny Cheshire
Queen Mary

Prof. Jean-Marc Dewaele
Birkbeck

Dr. Beverly Costa
Mothertongue
Thomas Prendergast (1807-1886) created an innovative system for language learning which he presented in his book The Mastery of Languages or, the art of speaking foreign tongues idiotically (1864), with manuals on French, German, and Spanish and, as Hebrew and Latin. One significant feature of Prendergast’s pedagogical approach was its use of observations on child language acquisition, of both mother tongue and additional languages. In addition to this distinctive developmental perspective, Prendergast considered the significant differences for the learner between classroom instruction and cultural immersion. These insights were drawn from his personal experiences of British education in the 1810s and 1820s, and his life in multilingual India from the 1820s to 1850s as part of the British East India Company. His language learning method also incorporated original psychological insights regarding memory, learning, and the lexicon. Prendergast used these notions to fashion a system of self-guided study for adults. His Mastery system of language learning will be explored with regard to the psycholinguistic concepts it embodies.

Prof. Lorch was trained in both the USA and UK, receiving her B.A. in Linguistics, Anthropology, and Biology with Honours in 1978 from Washington University, St. Louis, USA. She spent a year as a postgraduate student in Linguistics at University College London, and then returned to the USA to complete a Ph.D. in Language Behavior (Neurolinguistics) at Boston University in 1985. At this time, she was also a research assistant at the Aphasia Research Center at Veterans Hospital. Since then she has been based in London. Initially appointed as a part-time lecturer at Birkbeck in 1986, she became a full-time staff member in 1991. She has received successive promotions within the department of Applied Linguistics and Communication, becoming Professor of Neurolinguistics in 2009. At this time, she was also a research assistant at the Aphasias Research Center at University College London. During this time, she has had major collaborations at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery at Queen Square. She has held visiting fellowships at University of California in Los Angeles, Emory University in Atlanta and Brown University, Providence.

Prof Lorch’s interdisciplinary research addresses questions regarding the mental construction of language from a variety of theoretical and methodological perspectives. One key theme is about how multiple languages are represented in bilingual individuals and across-linguistic variation in processing. A major strand of her recent work is in the history of linguistic ideas, focussing on 19th century approaches to understanding language acquisition, function and disorder in the context of emerging disciplines in linguistics, psychology and neurology. Her programme of research involves numerous international cross-disciplinary collaborations and has resulted in over 100 papers in peer-reviewed publications. She served as a member of the sub-panel for Modern Languages and Linguistics for the Research Excellence Framework 2014. She is an action editor for the journal Cortex, on the editorial boards of the Journal of the History of the Neurosciences and Historiographia Linguistica, and the executive board of the Henry Sweet Society for the History of Linguistic Ideas.

This paper questions whether multilingualism and multilingual provision at the United Nations (UN) is in fact diplomatic baggage or a passport to success (McEntee-Atalianis, in print). Drawing on an analysis of language policy and practice within the Organisation of a long-term ethnographic and sociolinguistic study of its smallest agency, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO), the paper highlights the tensions between organisational language policy and micro-language planning and use, in which agency resides with the membership. It is argued that attention must be paid to changing sociocultural dynamics and the role of membership in policy development in inter/trans-national contexts. The presentation critiques the call for the implementation of a restrictive multilingual policy and argues that attempts at fostering multilingualism within the UN, and similar sites of international engagement, are better approached through ‘bottom-up’ field and policy analysis in which processes of overt (planned) and covert (unplanned) policy and planning are assessed, making localised situations the impetus for policy decisions. This may require radically revising current systems in order to foster a variety of language regimes across the ecology of the organisation.

Lisa J. McEntee-Atalianis achieved a First Class BA Honours in Applied Linguistics from the University of North Wales, Bangor in 1989. Funded by the ESRC she continued her doctoral studies in the Department of Speech and Language at the University of Newcastle and completed her thesis, entitled: ‘Morphosyntactic Aspects of Agrammatism’ under the supervision of Prof. Lesley Milroy in 1993. In the same year she was appointed as post-doctoral research assistant at the Centre for Deaf Studies, University of Bristol, where she investigated the semantic and pragmatic acquisition of British Sign Language by Deaf and hearing children born to Deaf parents. On completion of this project she also managed a large European network project and supervised various other sign language investigations in the department. She has worked at the University of Cyprus, Queen Mary University of London, and Reading University. She lived and worked in Cyprus and New York for many years and was appointed to her current post at Birkbeck University of London in 2009.

Lisa has published in various areas of Applied Linguistics, including: Language Pathology (Aphasia), Sign Language/Deaf Studies and Sociolinguistics. In recent years her research has focused broadly on issues of ‘identity’ at micro- and macro-linguistic levels. Her broader interest is evidenced in her forthcoming book: ‘An Introduction to Language and Identity’ (Continuum), and articles which have focused on different sites and communities, including the ethnolinguistic vitality of the Greek-Cypriot communities in Cyprus and London; the autochthonous Greek-Orthodox community of Istanbul, Turkey; and the discursive construction of European identity (by NGO members) and organisational identity (by Secretary-Generals) of the United Nations. She has also been involved in an extensive investigation of language policy and practice at the United Nations, with a special interest in the International Maritime Organization, London (an agency of the United Nations). She is a member of the Study Group on Language and the United Nations, New York.
This presentation focuses on three genres of knowledge dissemination used by academic writers: the research article, the professional magazine article, and the blog. While the traditional genres of the research article and the magazine article belong to the academic and professional domains respectively, the blog, a relative newcomer in academic discourse, cuts across such divisions (Myers, 2010). It is therefore of interest to explore how academic writers utilise these genres to address different audiences. This presentation will report on a study of a political scientist’s use of the three genres to communicate the findings of his research (Petrić & Harwood, 2013).

Specifically, the study examines the differences in the reader-writer relationship, focusing on the writer’s conception of his audience and his discursive construction of authorship in each of the three genres. Data were collected via semi-structured discourse-based interviews (Odell et al 1983) with the participant, a junior researcher in the discipline of political science, centering on the following texts: two research articles published in international academic journals, two newspaper articles published in an international professional magazine, and entries in the participant’s blog. The analysis focuses on (i) the writer’s understanding of the communicative purpose of each genre and his related communicative goals; (ii) his conception of the audience of each genre, including both known readers and imagined readership, and (iii) the writer’s textual choices (e.g., self-reference, the use of direct quotations, hedging, expression of opinion) which construct his authorship. It will be shown how these three factors interact in different ways in the case of each genre.

References


Roundtable Discussion on the Future of Applied Linguistics

3:30pm - 4:30pm

In the Roundtable, we will discuss and debate about the future of Applied Linguistics, a developing discipline which is concerned with solving real-world problems related to language. A preview of our discussants’ position can be found here. It will be facilitated by Professor Li Wei.

Prof. Claire Kramsch
UC Berkeley

“My vision for the future of Applied Linguistics focuses on the scientific advances made in the field and their impact on real-world practice, the tension between the technical and the social, and the spread of English around the world, and the increasingly diverse research cultures in Applied Linguistics. I see three main challenges that Applied Linguistics will have to deal with in the coming decades: How to situate Applied Linguistics vis-à-vis related fields; how to validate the practice all the while that we are theorizing it; how to envisage a multilingual/multicultural Applied Linguistics.”

Prof. Ben Rampton

“Since 1965, Applied Linguistics has become wonderfully varied in the topics studied and in how they are studied. I do not think we can claim to share core disciplinary principles or methods. But I do think we share some institutional interests, aims, practices, and experiences; we need to keep talking to each other. And while there is a much wider range of researchers in the field in the UK than there was in 1965, in almost any dimension, we still have a long way to go.”

Prof. Greg Myers

“Applied Linguistics remains a practice-oriented discipline in search of a secure place in the academy, as it debates the language-related problems which it should prioritize, the sources of theory on which it draws, and its own capacity for generating theory. As a social science, it has tended to pay insufficient attention to the discussions of language in the humanities over the past half-century and more, discussions which pose a major challenge to its assumptions and constitution as a field. I see a re-linking of studies of language and of culture as an exciting way forward.”

Prof. Tim McNamara

“I came into Applied Linguistics in the mid 1980s at a time when the focus of applied linguistic research attention was opening up, away from a narrow focus on language teaching. I welcomed and became part of this push, working successively on emergent topics such as adult literacy and language and migration. For me the challenge for Applied Linguistics and hence the vision is twofold: firstly to remain open to new forms of collaboration with new fields of research and practice, secondly to convince those who do not necessarily frame social issues as language issues, that this is a productive research perspective.”

Prof. Mike Baynham

“For me, the most significant, new questions about the way linguistic resources are deployed are likely to come from examining language (speech, writing, voice, interactivity, etc.) in relation to other symbolic and material systems of signification such as material culture, art, law and technology.”

Prof. Adam Jaworski

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Prof. Mike Baynham

Mike Baynham is Professor of TESOL in the School of Education and was Chair of BAAL (2001-2003). His professional background is in Adult ESOL and Literacy. Before he came to Leeds, he spent ten years in Sydney at the University of Technology, Sydney where he was Director of the Centre for Language and Literacy and before that he worked in London in Adult and Higher Education. His academic background is in sociolinguistics, but has always been involved in and committed to Applied Linguistics. Research interests include literacy studies, narrative, language and migration. Translation is a secret passion and he is currently translating the work of two gay writers, the Colombian poet Raúl Gómez Jattin and the autofiction of the Moroccan writer Rachid O, neither of whose work is available in English. His current academic research focuses on multilingualism and translanguaging and a developing line of research on queer migration narratives.

Prof. Ben Rampton

Ben Rampton (PhD [London] Hon D [Copenhagen] FacSS) is Professor of Applied & Sociolinguistics and Director of the Centre for Language Discourse and Communication at Kings College London (www.kcl.ac.uk/ldc). He does interactional sociolinguistics, and his interests cover urban multilingualism, ethnicity, class, youth and education. He is the author of Crossing: Language & Ethnicity among Adolescents (Longman 1995/2005) and Language in Late Modernity: Interaction in an Urban School (CUP 2006), and a co-author of Researching Language: Issues of Power and Method (Routledge 1992). He co-edited ‘The Language, Ethnicity & Race Reader (Routledge 2003) and Language & Superdiversity (Routledge 2015), and he edits Working Papers in Urban Language and Literacy. He was founding convenor of the UK Linguistic Ethnography Forum, and was the Director of the King’s ESRC Interdisciplinary Social Science Doctoral Training Centre from 2011-2014 (www.kcl.ac.uk/kissdtc).

Prof. Claire Kramsch

Claire Kramsch is Professor of German and Affiliate Professor of Education at the University of California at Berkeley. She has published extensively on language and culture in language learning and teaching, on globalization and multilingualism. She is the author of Context and Culture in Language Teaching (OUP 1993), Language and Culture (OUP 1997), The Multilingual Subject (OUP 2009) and with Ulrike Jessner of The Multilingual Challenge (Mouton de Gruyter in press). She is the past president of AAAL and coeditor of Applied Linguistics. She is the editor of L2Journal and co-editor (with Zhu Hua) of the Routledge book series Language and Intercultural Communication, and (with Ulrike Jessner) of the Mouton book series Trends in Applied Linguistics. She is the current President of AILA.

Prof. Adam Jaworski

Adam Jaworski is Professor of Language and Communication at the School of English, University of Hong Kong. He has published on such topics as language and globalization, display of languages in space, media discourse, nonverbal communication, and text-based art. His most recent publications include The Discourse Reader, 3rd edition (Routledge, 2014), a special issue of the Journal of Sociolinguistics on Sociolinguistics and Tourism (2014), and a special issue of Social Semiotics on Typographic Landscaping (2015). He co-edits the Oxford University Press book series, Oxford Studies in Sociolinguistics.
History of the Department of Applied Linguistics and Communication

1960s

1959: The beginnings of the present department can trace their source to the appointment of Michel Blanc as Lecturer in French Language & Literature.

1964: Michel Blanc develops innovation in the language learning curriculum, publishing Visages de la France contemporaine, which is a pedagogical application of lexicology to the study of civilization for advanced students of French culture.

1965: The department also played a key role in the founding of the British Association for Applied Linguistics, and hosted its first planning meeting: “In July 1965, a preliminary meeting of interested parties was convened by Peter Strevens at Birkbeck, and a working party was set up to formulate the aims of the proposed British Applied Linguistics Association [sic].” From the “Notes on the History of the British Association of Applied Linguistics 1967-1997.”

1965: Blanc initiates an interdisciplinary Language Research Centre with colleagues Brian Dutton (Spanish language) and Brian Foss (Psychology). The “Programme of Research in Applied Linguistics and the Psychology of Learning Languages” is funded by the Nuffield Foundation. Staff appointments of Ormond Uren, part-time Lecturer in French language and research assistant; Alix Mullineaux, research assistant in Psychology, and Angel Garcia de Paredes research assistant in Spanish.

1966: The BBC commission Michel Blanc to produce Suivez la Piste!, a series of 24 half-hour programs to teach French on TV, broadcast several times on BBC1 and BBC2 and sold to the USA and Australia. Following this success, Angel Garcia de Paredes and Brian Dutton were commissioned to produce Vamos a ver! for learning Spanish.

1968: The Language Research Centre moves in to premises in 15-16 Rathbone Place.

1970s

1971: The Council of Europe Report on “The Role and Structure of University Language Centres in Europe.” [REPORT NO.CC-ESR-711-72] by W. Grauberg singles out Birkbeck’s Language Research Centre as the only UK centre oriented towards teaching and research in Applied Linguistics, and only one of 3 in Europe, along with Utrecht and Paris: “The Language Research Centre at Birkbeck... have been experimenting since 1966 with alternative approaches to French language learning within a traditional university framework. Their main project involves the development of a course in which students are encouraged, by improvisation and group work, to use language functionally. Research is also proceeding on the Programmed learning of French pronunciation.” p. 35.

1972: Michel Blanc and Alix Mullineaux complete their ground breaking sociolinguistic survey of varieties of spoken French in the city of Orléans in association with colleagues from University of Essex and Coventry Polytechnic, with funding from the Department of Education & Science (UK) and the French Embassy in London. The Sociolinguistic Survey of French (“The Orléans Project”) (1968-1972) analysed recorded samples spoken French in different situations and employed them in innovative teaching materials.

1972: The Master of Birkbeck, Ronald Tress, transformed the Language Research Centre into the Department of Applied Linguistics, with Michel Blanc as Head. Ormond Uren and Alix Mullineaux were joined by a new colleague, Paul Meara. The first cohort of students was recruited for the MA in Second Language Learning & Teaching in 1972-73.

1980s

1982: Peter Skehan is awarded the first PhD in the department under the supervision of Paul Meara. He has continued to become a world leader in second language acquisition research as an outcome of his work at Birkbeck. This has been recognised by making him an honorary research fellow within the department.

Tim McNamara is Professor in the School of Languages and Linguistics at the University of Melbourne, where he helped establish the graduate Applied Linguistics program on the Birkbeck model, and the Language Testing Research Centre, an internationally recognized centre for research in that field. His research interests are in language testing, the teaching and testing of languages for specific purposes, and poststructuralist approaches to language and subjectivity, on which he is currently writing a book for De Gruyter. He is the author of Language Testing (Oxford, 2000) and (with Carsten Roever) Language Testing: The Social Dimension (Blackwell, 2006).

Prof. Tim McNamara
The University of Melbourne

Prof. Greg Myers has spent most of his career at the Department of Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster University, where he teaches on modules on discourse analysis, media language, interview methods, and language in the workplace. He is currently Chair of the British Association for Applied Linguistics.

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Early 1980s: The department moves into larger premises in 43 Gordon Square and acquires a language laboratory and recording studio with a dedicated technician, Rob Kennedy. This provision was expanded and Tony Delong and Mansour Shabbak joined the team. One of the founding members of the department, Alix Mullineaux leaves and another, Ormond Uren retires.

1983: The department expands major expansion with a number of new appointments.

1983: Jenny Cheshire and Viv Edwards join the Department, sharing a single post, bringing expertise in variationist sociolinguistics, language in education, and literacy.

1984: Viv Edwards (with Peter Trudgill and Bert Weltens) publish the results of their ESRC study The grammar of English dialect: A survey of research.


1988: Penelope Gardner-Chloros is a founding member of the European Science Foundation Network on Code-switching and Language Contact.

1989: Penelope Gardner-Chloros becomes a British Academy postdoctoral Fellow based at Birkbeck, before she is appointed to a lectureship.


1990s

1990: The founder of the department, Michel Blanc retires. He is now a Fellow of the College.


1990: The department institutes undergraduate teaching in applied linguistics with an introductory module in Linguistics on the BA Humanities programme. This programme provision is expanded in 1991/2 with the launch of the programme BA Linguistics and Languages, the first combined degree with Linguistics in Birkbeck.

1991: Jenny Cheshire takes up an appointment at the University of Neuchâtel, Switzerland and Viv Edwards moves to the University of Reading.

1991: Penelope Gardner-Chloros, alumna of the MA in Second Language Learning and Teaching (1979-81), is appointed as lecturer in Sociolinguistics continuing the department’s strong tradition in this area. Her monograph Language Selection & Switching in Strasbourg is published by Oxford University Press.

1991: Founder member of the department Paul Meara resigns to take up a post at Swansea University. Marjorie Lorch is appointed full-time lecturer adding Neurolinguistics to the department’s portfolio.

1991: Adam Jaworski joined the department for the academic year 1991-92 from the Adam Mickiewicz University, Poznań, Poland and taught an innovative course on Silence. He has had continuing connections with the department and is currently an honorary research fellow.


1993: Larry Selinker arrives from the University of Michigan to become the first Professor of Applied Linguistics at Birkbeck. Selinker initiates teaching and research programmes in Interlanguage.

1993: The student organization the Birkbeck College Applied Linguistics Society (BCALS) is founded with PhD student Isabelle Barriere as the first president.


Mid-1990s: The department changes the name of the Masters programme to MA in Applied Linguistics. The College restructuring creates a School of Languages, Linguistics and Culture with Itesh Sachdev as Head. Ronnie Gelyuksens joins the department bringing expertise in conversation analysis, Ignacio Vazquez Orta joins the department as a visiting lecturer from University of Zaragoza, Spain, bringing expertise in the Pragmatics of Politeness.


1999: The Department of Applied Linguistics celebrates 25 years since the first MA graduates got their degrees in 1974 with a one-day conference entitled The Contribution of Cross-Linguistic Studies to our Understanding of Language at which distinguished former staff members delivered talks, including Michel Blanc, Jenny Cheshire, Paul Meara, and Peter Skehan.

2000s

2002: Larry Selinker retires.

2005: Itesh Sachdev leaves the department to take up a post at SOAS.

2006: Jean-Marc Dewaele moves from the French Department, where he had been a member since 1994, to join the staff in Applied Linguistics.

2006: Malcolm Edwards, Jean-Marc Dewaele and Maria Elena Placencia found the online journal Birkbeck Studies in Applied Linguistics (BISAL) ISSN 1754-5366 which showcases staff and student research in annual and special issues.

2007: Li Wei and Zhu Hua join the department from the University of Newcastle. A new postgraduate programme is introduced in Intercultural Communication for Business and Professionals. Jean-Marc Dewaele becomes President of the European Second Language Association (EUROSLA) 2007-2011.

2007: The Centre for Multilingual and Multicultural Research (CMMR) was founded. It hosts the annual Bloomsbury Round Table on Communication, Cognition and Culture, and the Bloomsbury Applied Linguistics Seminars.

2008: Li Wei (with Melissa Moyer) publishes The Blackwell guide to research methods in bilingualism and multilingualism.

2008: Zhu Hua wins a three year KTP (Knowledge Transfer Partnership) grant, funded by the ESRC/TSB in partnership with Raleigh International. The project is the first of its kind in Birkbeck. Brandon Charleston joins the Department as a KTP Associate.


2010s

2010: The Department is renamed Applied Linguistics and Communication to reflect its expansion into the area of intercultural communication and expands with the appointment of Lisa McIntee-Atianis from the University of Reading.

2010: With the College restructuring the department joins the new School of Social Sciences, History and Philosophy and moves to new premises in 26 Russell Square.

2010: Penelope Gardner-Chloros, along with Jenny Cheshire from QMUL, is funded by a four year grant from an ESRC/ANR bilateral scheme to compare developments in contemporary London English with those occurring in Paris French. Maria Secova joins the team as Research Assistant.
2010: Rosemary Wilson is appointed as the Academic Lead in English for Academic Purposes, sharing her time with ALC and the Department of Social Policy and Education. In the same year, the MA TESOL starts.

2010: Jean-Marc Dewaele publishes Emotions in multiple languages, Palgrave Macmillan.

2010: Marjorie Lorch was elected president of the International Society for the History of the Neurosciences (ISHN).

2011: Penelope Gardner-Chloros wins a British Academy Small Grant in order to study ‘Language in Strasbourg 30 years on’.

2011: Zhu Hua edits The language and intercultural communication reader published by Routledge.

2012: Rosemary Wilson retires.

2012: The Department expands to include Higher Education Introductory Studies (HEIS) and appoints Kerry Harman as the Programme Director.

2012: Li Wei was elected president of the University Council for General and Applied Linguistics (UCGAL).

2013: All the members of the department collaborate to co-author the textbook Applied Linguistics edited by Li Wei for Wiley-Blackwell.

2013: Tom Morton from Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, Spain is appointed to lead a new postgraduate programme in TESOL and language teaching.


2014: Li Wei and Zhu Hua, along with colleagues from Birmingham, Leeds and Cardiff, are funded by a four year AHRC large grant for the project Translation and Translanguaging: Investigating Linguistic and Cultural Transformations in Superdiverse Wards in Four UK Cities. Agnieszka Lyons is appointed as Research Fellow for the project.

2015: Tom Morton leaves the department, however, remains part of the department as an Honorary Research Fellow.

2015: Li Wei leaves the department to take up a Professorship at UCL Institute of Education, however, remains part of the Department as an Honorary Research Professor.

2015: Bojana Petrić is appointed as Senior Lecturer in TESOL for the department.


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Programmes offered within the Department of Applied Linguistics and Communication

**Undergraduate Programmes**
- CertHE Higher Education Introductory Studies
- CertHE Linguistics and Language
- BA Linguistics and Language (3, 4, 6 year pathways)

**Postgraduate Programmes**
- GradCert Linguistic Studies
- Foundation Programme for Postgraduate Study
- MA Applied Linguistics
- MA TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)
- MA Language Teaching
- MA Intercultural Communication for Business and Professions

**Research Programmes**
- Integrated PhD Applied Linguistics
- Integrated PhD TESOL
- Integrated PhD Language Teaching
- Integrated PhD Intercultural Communication
- MPhil/PhD Applied Linguistics

Find out more information about our programmes at [www.bbk.ac.uk/linguistics](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/linguistics)

Find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/appliedlinguistics](http://www.facebook.com/appliedlinguistics) or Twitter at [www.twitter.com/DeptofALCBBK](http://www.twitter.com/DeptofALCBBK)
How to find us

Clore Building, 25-27 Torrington Square, Bloomsbury, London, WC1E 7JL

Main campus

Central London (WC1)
Main building (in red) – entrance via Torrington Sq

By tube

Central Line
Tottenham Court Road

Circle Line
Euston Square

Metropolitan Line
Euston Square

Northern Line
Euston
Goodge Street
Tottenham Court Road
Warren Street

Hammersmith & City Line
Euston Square

Piccadilly Line
Russell Square

Victoria Line
Euston
Warren Street

By bus

10, 14, 24, 29, 73, 134
and 390 run South along Gower Street and North along Tottenham Court Rd

7, 59, 68, X68, 91, 168, 188
run to Russell Square
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