**Title: Multilingualism in post-Soviet countries**

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**Participants:**

1. **Title:** Between the Restoration of National Sovereignty and the Respect for Minority Rights: Testing the Concept of Post-Colonialism in Latvia  
   **Presenter:** Dr. Jean-Bernard Adrey, University of Portsmouth, United Kingdom  
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2. **Title:** Multilingualism in Uzbekistan  
   **Presenter:** Dilbarkhon Hasanova, Ph.D. student, Purdue University, United States  
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3. **Title:** Multilingualism in Ukraine: Challenges and perspectives for minority languages  
   **Presenter:** Dr. Svitlana Melnyk, Kyiv National Taras Shevchenko University, Ukraine  
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4. **Title:** Kazakhstan: Transformation of language ideology  
   **Presenter:** Dr. Juldyz Smagulova, King’s College, London, United Kingdom  
   E-mail: juldyz.smagulova@kcl.ac.uk

5. **Title:** Bilingual communication in Tallinn and Ida-Virumaa: regional patterns  
   **Presenters:** Dr. Anna Verschik, Tallinn University, Estonia (Estonia)  
   E-mail: anna.verschik@tlu.ee  
   Anastassia Zabrodskaja, Ph.D. student, Tallinn University, Estonia (Estonia)  
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6. **Title:** Micro-compromise and macro-deadlock: The (im)balance of multilingualism in Moldova  
   **Presenter:** Matthew Ciscel, Central Connecticut State University, US  
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**Multilingualism in post-Soviet countries**

What happens when an official language spoken by the majority of the country’s population loses its status and becomes overnight a language of an ethnic minority? And what if the titular language of the same country is spoken by less than a half of the country's population? Can language laws and policies affect linguistic competencies of the population? Can they shape new national and linguistic affiliations and allegiances? How can everyone’s rights be respected and maintained within the newly emerging multilingual constellations? The 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union created a unique “controlled experiment” enabling scholars to observe how this situation might unfold simultaneously in fourteen countries previously united by the same political system and now embarking on their own nation-building trajectories.

The present workshop will examine the complex interrelationship between language laws and policies (macro) and language practices (micro) in six post-Soviet countries. These countries will be subdivided into three pairs where contributors will explore similarities and differences between geographic neighbors: Ukraine (Melnyk)/Moldova (Ciscel); Latvia (Adrey)/Estonia (Verschik & Zabrodskaja); and Kazakhstan (Smagulova)/ Uzbekistan (Hasanova).

The workshop will take place in a roundtable format divided into two 90 minute parts. Each part will focus on a set of questions posited by the organizer. Each contributor will take up to 10 minutes to address the questions from their own theoretical and methodological perspective and in the context of their country (6 x 10 min = 60 min). Their arguments will be followed by a general discussion with the audience (30 minutes) and at the end, with the concluding remarks from the organizer. Throughout, audience members will have an opportunity to ask questions and to participate in the discussion.

1st part. State language(s): Language laws and linguistic practices. What is the state language of your country? How do existing language, citizenship, and education laws regulate the knowledge and use of this language (e.g., via citizenship language testing etc.)? What were the levels of linguistic competence in this language pre-1991? How have they changed in the past two decades? Where do you see the greatest effects of current language laws and policies? Where do you see the areas of tension and compromise?

2nd part. Minority languages: Language laws and linguistic practices. What are the current laws and policies in your country with regard to minority languages? What are the key minority languages in the country? How do current laws and policies aid in the maintenance and transmission of these languages? What are the challenges currently faced by the country in balancing the needs of the titular and minority populations? What are the roles played by outside forces, such as Russia and the European Union, in these developments? Do you think Western approaches to linguistic minority rights can be
applied wholesale to post-Soviet countries? If not, what adaptations might be needed to current theories of minority rights? What challenges are presented to these theories by existence of majoritized minority languages, such as Russian, in post-Soviet countries?

At the SS16 in Limerick the organizer of the current workshop co-chaired a workshop on Russian in diaspora in Near and Far Abroad that sparked a lot of follow-up discussion and eventually led to the creation of an AILA-sponsored research network on multilingualism in post-Soviet countries. The proposed workshop is the first official meeting of the members of this network. The workshop has three interrelated aims. Its primary aim is to bring together post-Soviet scholars from a variety of countries to examine the complex interrelationship between language policies and practices in the context of nation-building in post-Soviet countries. The second and related aim is to discuss the challenges offered to traditional theories of linguistic minority rights by the existence of majoritized minority populations, such as Russians in Kazakhstan or Latvia, where in 1991 Russian was spoken by the larger segment of the country's population than the titular language. The third aim is to compare, discuss and begin developing new approaches toward linguistic minority rights that will allow for equitable and consistent treatment of language minority issues across the post-Soviet space.

Key references: