

Multilingual Europe in the age of superdiversity: Language rich but policy poor?

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Europe has long been multilingual and multilingualism has always been an important dimension of the European project and the EU's conception of a supranational European identity. My presentation examines some issues arising from the lack of a coherent legally binding EU language policy on multilingualism either at the level of EU institutions or in member-states (Nic Craith 2006, Krzyzanowski and Wodak 2011, Romaine 2013). Despite the EU's motto in *varietate concordia* ('unity in diversity'), and the promotion of multilingualism as a symbol of common European identity and a key to integration in official discourses (e.g. European Commission 2005a,b, European Commission 2008), the challenges to creating an inclusive multilingualism policy are arguably greater than they have ever been before. New forms of minoritization arising from linguistic 'superdiversity' demand a coordinated and unified policy response, but instead threaten to lead to increasing political and cultural fragmentation and disintegration (Blommaert and Rampton 2011, Moore 2015, Wodak and Boukala 2015). I address, in particular, unequal relationships between official and nonofficial languages as well as hierarchies within non-official languages between those currently accorded some measure of legal protection and those without any. I also examine the issue of language endangerment, comparing the EU to other parts of the world.

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