



# CfP: Conducting research in turbulent contexts: a Swedish-Ukrainian workshop

## Meaning-making in conflict-ridden settings

How are boundaries, exclusions, and divisions semiotically (re-)produced in everyday spaces? This 3-day workshop intends to interrogate the negotiation of ethnic, linguistic, and national identities and senses of place across turbulent contexts. Following an approach that views languages as lived and dynamic (Bakhtin, 1981; Busch, 2017), and individuals and material environments as inter-related and (co-)constituted, this workshop foregrounds localized, semiotic acts of meaning-making as 'politics of performance' (Butler, 1997). Drawing on turbulence as an analytical tool (Stroud, 2015: 13), we focus on unstable and unpredictable meaning-making practices as they evolve and shift over times and across spaces.

## Semiotic Landscapes and Critical Sociolinguistics

The interest for this workshop comes from the productive potential of bridging previous research on post-socialist spaces and borderlands (among others, utilizing a Linguistic Landscapes approach, e.g. Bilkic, 2018; Kudriavtseva & Homanyuk, 2020; Moore, 2018; Muth, 2012; Pavlenko, 2012; Volvach, 2021), with the substantial body of critical sociolinguistic scholarship on language and place conducted by Swedish researchers (Heugh & Stroud, 2018; Hyltenstam & Stroud, 2016; Kerfoot, 2011; Kerfoot & Hyltenstam, 2017; Kerfoot & Tatah, 2017; Milani, 2017; Milani et al., 2018; Stroud, 2001; Vuorsola, 2020).

Keeping the focus on processes of meaning-making as they unfold on streets, squares, walls of villages, and towns centres, we welcome contributions utilizing a variety of theoretical and methodological approaches that facilitate exploration of vibrant multilingual realities, rapidly shifting linguistic and spatial practices as well as changing perceptions and ideologies of language and semiosis.

## Guiding questions for individual presentations:

1. What are the affordances and limitations of researching multilingualism in turbulent contexts?
2. What kind of knowledge can be produced under the conditions of socio-political turbulence?
3. In what ways does the researcher (co)construct (sociolinguistic) knowledge under such conditions?
4. How can experiences from Ukraine and Sweden inform current sociolinguistically oriented multilingualism research?

In summary, this project aims to foster exchange around language and multilingualism among the scholars whose research deals with turbulent spaces across geopolitical North and South. It is our hope that these planned series of critical engagements would contribute to an ongoing interdisciplinary dialogue around the work of language in multilingual and conflict-ridden settings.

## Workshop program

**WHEN:** 14-16 June 2022

**WHERE:** Stockholm University, Gula villan

Up to 16 scholars will participate in three days of talks and/or data analysis sessions. Both junior and senior researchers are invited to present their on-going work (or a piece of data for a collaborative analysis) in relation to the workshop theme.

To attend the workshop, contributors are required to send a 300-word abstract and a CV to [natalia.volvach@biling.su.se](mailto:natalia.volvach@biling.su.se) before **February 30, 2022**. Partly reimbursement of travel and/or accommodation costs will be provided.