

Language and Sociopolitical Struggle in the Hispanic World

Wednesday 28 April 2010, Research Beehive

As we move into the 21st century, increasing economic, cultural and social pressures are being brought to bear on Latin America's indigenous populations to move into the mainstream of Spanish and Portuguese speaking society, and to abandon their languages and the specific forms of knowledge that these languages often embody. Despite the recent history of constitutional change and educational reform across the Latin American region, which take account of the linguistic identities and educational needs of the indigenous populations, education systems are still a significant channel for the exertion of such pressure. The state political agendas that lie behind these processes partly explain the struggles over language and education rights that ensue. Ideological factors at work in both state and civil society also come into play. In regions of Spain such as Catalonia struggles over language rights have been a central part of the political process, continuing even after the end of the Franco regime in 1975, and their story has lessons for the Latin American case.

This symposium brings together researchers, students and practitioners in the field of language and education planning in Spain and Latin America to present some of the issues and engage in debate.

All are welcome to attend.

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| 1.00-2.00 | Buffet lunch |
| 2.00-3.30 | Catalan language, education and social cohesion
Miquel Essomba, UNESCOCAT, Barcelona
Language policies and language planning in Latin America
Utta von Gleich, University of Hamburg
Education for indigenous peoples in Amazonia, Peru
Sheila Aikman, University of East Anglia |
| 3.30-4.00 | Tea break |
| 4.00-4.30 | Discourses of language revitalisation in the Yucatecan press, Mexico
Josep Cru, Newcastle University |
| 4.30-5.00 | Discussion
Jane Freeland, University of Southampton, Peter Sercombe, Newcastle University |
| 5.00-5.30 | General discussion |

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