The hidden agendas of language policy; effects on language rights

Elana Shohamy (University of Tel-Aviv)

The paper will show how language policies, even the most liberal ones, are often only declared policies while the de facto language policy is carried out through a variety of mechanisms. The paper will discuss these mechanisms (laws and regulations, language education policies, language tests, language in the public space and myths/propaganda/persecution). It will then show how these mechanisms affect the language rights of individuals especially in the context of political contexts as in the case of Israel.