

## Languages, Diversity and Arts

Convener:

Mattu, Katjuscia  
Linguapax International

Participants:

Antinori, Sonia.  
MALTE – Musica, Arte, Letteratura, Teatro, Ecc.

Bellinzis, Francesco  
Independent researcher

Brenzinger, Matthias  
University of the Free State in Bloemfontein

Flores Farfán, José Antonio  
CIESAS – Linguapax Latin America

Fuentes-Calle, Alicia  
University of York

Languages and arts are strictly interconnected. Artistic creation often arises from a language and is expressed through it. All languages have their own artistic forms that distinguish them and at the same time bring them closer to other languages.

Nevertheless, the use of one language or another is not free from cultural, political and economic constrictions. The hierarchy between languages, as well as the strong relationship between language and nation, condition the choice of the language in which art is created and manifested. Subaltern, minoritised languages, with little recognition, are often excluded from the artistic world of our cities. And so are people who speak them. As a result, official culture speaks only a handful of languages, and represents only a part of society. This represents a great loss of opportunities to know and understand different languages, cultures and experiences and to make them communicate with each other.

It is to reverse this exclusion and impoverishment that more and more artists are making projects where art becomes a vehicle for linguistic revitalization and claim, and a space for dialogue and co-existence between different languages, cultures, points of view and world-visions.

In this panel, we will explore cases in which language represents an artistic resource as well as an instrument of assertion (Bellinzis, Flores Farfan), and where arts and languages merge into ideas and practices that favour recognition and empowerment of minoritised groups (Antinori, Brenzinger, Fuentes-Calle).