



Cfp: Asylum Encounters – Bridging Different Perspectives on Language, Asymmetries and Identities

29 October 2020 – 30 October 2020 at Stockholm University

This workshop aims to bring together researchers from language and social sciences with a shared interest in the communicative, political and social aspects of asylum determination procedures.

Asylum encounters have been studied within a variety of social and language sciences. Unfortunately, there are very few common forums where disciplinary boundaries can be breached and perspectives can cross-fertilize. The objective of this workshop is to gather prominent researchers working within different research traditions and having a shared interest in asylum encounters as communicative, social, and political practices. The workshop focuses on three key aspects: language, asymmetries and identities.

The *first* area concerns language(s) and languaging. Here, possibilities and limitations coming with interpreter-mediated interaction, issues of interpreting strategies, differences between spoken and written language, multilingualism and multimodal social interaction are scrutinized. Why and how is language important in asylum encounters?

The *second* area deals with asymmetries between participants in the process – asylum applicants, case workers, legal counsels, decision-makers, voluntary supporters, activists, and interpreters. Here, questions about how political considerations, regulations and discretionary routines either challenge or reproduce a certain power imbalance are essential. How are power relations entangled in these encounters?

The *third* area concerns how identities are constructed in the encounters between asylum applicants and case workers. The asylum determination process is ultimately about who is perceived as a genuine refugee and who is dismissed as merely a fortune-seeker or economic migrant. How are identities created, (re)negotiated and restricted in and through interaction?

We invite scholars interested in these topics to a two-days' workshop at Stockholm University. The ambition is to work towards a publication reflecting the mutual exchange of ideas, theories, and methods between the different perspectives.

In order to create the best possible conditions for exchanges between participants, we keep the format limited to maximum 20 participants. During the workshop, we will discuss the participants' draft papers on the topics outlined above.

Already confirmed participants in the workshop are:
Nick Gill, Professor in Human Geography at University of Exeter.

Barak Kalir, Associate Professor in Anthropology at University of Amsterdam.

Julia Korkman, Associate Professor in Forensic Psychology, Legal Psychology at Åbo Akademi University.

Krzysztof Kredens, Ph.D in Forensic Linguistics at Aston University.

Katrijn Maryns, Professor in the Department of Translation, Interpreting and Communication at Ghent University.

To apply for this workshop, send a 300-word abstract and a short biography to livia.johannesson@score.su.se or cecilia.wadensjo@su.se by 12 June 2020.

We are looking forward to your proposals!

Organizers:

Livia Johannesson, Ph.D in Political Science, Stockholm University

Zoe Nikolaidou, Associate Professor in Swedish, Södertörn University

Hanna Sofia Rehnberg, Ph.D in Scandinavian Languages, Södertörn University

Cecilia Wadensjö, Professor, Interpreting and Translation Studies, Stockholm University

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