

**Plenary session 1** Bilingualism as a lived reality: pitfalls and opportunities for research and outreach

Starting with a previously recorded video interview with Bente Ailin Svendsen (U. of Oslo, Norway) on her experiences as an expert witness in child custody cases, this first plenary session highlights various examples (positive and less so) of bilingual experiences as documented by both researchers and outreach professionals. You can view this video through the HaBilNet VIMEO channel (<https://vimeo.com/685991275>).

**Chair:**

Lourdes Ortega (Georgetown U., USA)

**Statements from 4 panelists:**

Andrea Young (U. of Strasbourg, France)

Hilde De Smedt (Foyer, Belgium)

Adam Winsler (George Mason U., USA)

Andrea Schalley (Karlstad U., Sweden)

**Closing statement:**

Helder De Schutter (KU Leuven, Belgium)

**Plenary session 2** The contextualized nature of bilingual experience and how to deal with it in research and outreach

Lay audiences, including speech professionals, educators, pediatricians, and parents, would like to hear findings about bilingualism that are simple, straightforward, durable and general. To what extent are results from bilingualism research universally applicable? The bilingual experience is always rooted in a particular context. As researchers, what aspects of that context should we prioritize in our investigations? And how can we get around the problem that research results may not be applicable for outreach activities in settings and contexts that have so far not been studied?

**Chair:**

Annick De Houwer (HaBilNet & Universität Erfurt, Germany)

**Statements from 3 panelists:**

Naja Ferjan Ramírez (U. of Washington, USA)

Heike Wiese (Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany)

Kutlay Yağmur (Tilburg University, the Netherlands)

**Closing statement:**

Birgit Leyendecker (Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany)

**Plenary session 3** Harmonious Bilingualism. A bilingual (German/English) special session at the occasion of Dr. De Houwer's retirement from the University of Erfurt

**Chair:**

Lourdes Ortega (Georgetown U., USA)

**Talks by 4 speakers:**

Jürgen M. Meisel (Universität Hamburg, Germany, & U. of Calgary, Canada):

**Bilingual First Language Acquisition Research: A Look Back in Time**

Annick De Houwer (HaBilNet & Universität Erfurt, Germany):

**Why study Harmonious Bilingualism? A personal account**

Csaba Földes (Universität Erfurt, Germany)

**De officina Hierana multilingualismum explorante** (online)

Lourdes Ortega (Georgetown U. USA)

**Wellbeing in late-timed bilingualism**

Annick De Houwer (HaBilNet & Universität Erfurt, Germany):

**Closing words**

**Plenary session 4** Best practices for popularizing research on bilingualism

We likely all agree that research results should be communicated to the general public. We may give interviews and not have much control over how our words are represented in the media, but in cases where we are, and in cases where we control public communication ourselves, what would be the best strategies to keep in mind, to avoid under- and overstating research results? Our research is by definition complex and often what we find is nuanced. How we do translate that into "soundbites" that are ethically acceptable?

**Chair:**

Annick De Houwer (HaBilNet & Universität Erfurt, Germany)

**Statements from 7 panelists:**

Angela Grimm (Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Germany)

Ann-Kristin H. Gujord (Universitetet i Bergen, Norway)

Ewa Haman (U. of Warsaw, Poland)

Claudine Kirsch (Université du Luxembourg, Luxembourg)

Barbara Köpke (Université de Toulouse 2, France)

Julio Torres (U. of California at Irvine, USA)

Sharon Unsworth (Radboud Universiteit, the Netherlands)

**Closing statement:**

Nikolay Slavkov (U. of Ottawa, Canada)