



UNIVERSITÀ
DI TORINO



The Department of Humanities of the
University of Turin presents

Mastin Prinsloo
(University of Cape Town)

Fixity and fluidity in language and language education

22 March 2023 3pm CET

Webex link: <https://unito.webex.com/unito-en/j.php?MTID=ma067ad2b38a8197290d602ca98ea3d10>

Attention to bilingualism from a 'dual grammar' or code-switching perspective (Auer, 1984) has been followed in the last decade or two by a proliferation of foci that flag more fluid languaging practices, marked by such terms as translanguaging, metrolingualism, and trans-semiotizing, amongst others. Such fluid dynamics have generally been researched on and argued for in contrast to what are described as more fixed, rigid, generalised or standardised ideas of languages as distinct from each other and as relatively stable or slow-changing phenomena. The reimagining of language to focus on fluid or heteroglossic practices also needs to take account, I argue, of the persistence and effect of these standardising practices. Standardisation dynamics, generally, rest on the institutional practices of schools, state bureaucracies, mass mediated publics and credentialling processes, which display the endurance and hegemonic social value of standards, even where their contradictions are visible and they are challenged. I draw here on classroom research from Khayelitsha, Cape Town, where fluid languaging and fixed language resources are used strategically in the language classroom by teachers and students. The research shows teachers' awareness of language boundary practices and of their porousness, that can be used in a tactical way that is transgressive, creative and productive, as well as constrained by the limits associated with schooling in that marginalised setting.

Organiser: **Marco Santello** marco.santello@unito.it