



dipartimento **studi umanistici**



UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI
DI NAPOLI FEDERICO II

Lunedì 13 Giugno

La Prof.ssa Antonella Sorace (Edimburgo)

terrà un ciclo di lezioni sui seguenti temi:

***Decolonising multilingualism: research-based vs.
ideology-based perspectives***

Recent research on multilingualism points not only to its value in any languages but also to the need to eliminate the ‘monolingual native speaker’ as the point of reference, both in research and in social practices. This is partly consistent with the ‘decolonisation of multilingualism’ movement; however, there are other more ideological aspects of this movement that attempt to deny the psychological reality of language and appear to be incongruous and at odds with what research shows. I will argue that abandoning monolingualism as the point of reference needs a better understanding of how native languages change as a natural and predictable consequence of language contact, in the individual bilingual brain and then in multilingual communities: this in turn requires an interdisciplinary framework that combines the insights of linguistic, cognitive and social models.

***The ecology of L2 learning and L1 change in
bilingualism***

Recent research on the phenomenon of first-generation ‘attrition’ has shown that a speaker’s first language (L1) changes in selective ways as a result of learning a second language (L2): these changes affect both the lexicon and the grammar. The question is whether there is a relationship between openness of the L1 to change and level of L2 attainment, as research shows that the aspects of L1 grammar affected by change are the ones that remain variable even in highly proficient L2 speakers of the same language. Four provisional generalisations are possible at this stage: first, we should treat L1 lexical and grammatical changes as a natural and predictable consequence of language contact, in the bilingual brain and then in multilingual communities; second, understanding the big picture requires serious consideration of individual differences and of variation in the bilingual experience; third, we may need to discontinue the use of ‘native monolingual speakers’ as a point of reference in research; fourth, we need more interdisciplinary research on different aspects of bilingualism that combines the insights of linguistic, cognitive and social models.

Ore 10,30-13

Sala riunioni, 2° piano scala B

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Dottorato in Mind, Gender and Language