



Universität Hamburg

DER FORSCHUNG | DER LEHRE | DER BILDUNG

FAKULTÄT

FÜR ERZIEHUNGSWISSENSCHAFT

LITERACY IN DIVERSITY

SETTINGS (LIDS)



Ringvorlesung Mehrsprachigkeit im Alltag

Multilingualism in the Criminal Justice System

The aim of this talk is to examine the management of linguistic diversity in the criminal justice system. Drawing on my own work in the USA and the UK, and on studies conducted in other contexts, I will offer examples of 'linguistic injustice' in the criminal justice system, raise questions about the nature of 'understanding' legal texts, and examine implementation of language-access provisions in police interrogation, in the courtroom and in correctional facilities. I will show that while the absence of translation and interpreting is detrimental to due process, as well as to the mental and physical health of defendants and detainees with limited English proficiency, mere provision of interpreting doesn't always remove language barriers, and may create new challenges.



Aneta Pavlenko (Ph.D. in Linguistics, Cornell University, 1997) is a Visiting Scholar at the University of York (UK). Her research examines the relationship between multilingualism, cognition, and emotions, including in legal contexts. She has lectured widely in North America, Europe and Asia, has authored more than a hundred articles and published eleven books, the latest of which is *Multilingualism and History* (Cambridge University Press, 2023). She has testified in court as an expert witness and co-chaired, with Diana Eades, the international Communication of Rights Group that produced the guidelines for communicating rights to non-native speakers of English in Australia, England and Wales, and the USA (2015). She is Past President of the American Association for Applied Linguistics and winner of the 2006 BAAL Book of the Year award, the 2009 TESOL award for Distinguished Research, the 2021 AAAL Research article award and the 2023 AAAL Distinguished Scholarship and Service Award.

Dienstag, 17. Juni 2025

18:00-20:00 Uhr, Raum 08

Von-Melle-Park 8, 20146 Hamburg



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