

MINA KHEIRKHAH  
Researcher - Sweden  
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#### A short biography

Mina Kheirkhah has a PhD in sociology of childhood and sociolinguistics. Her research focuses especially on family language policy, language maintenance and shift in multilingual families. Using detailed interactional analysis, her work focuses on family interactions and the role of children in the processes of language socialization and family multilingualism.

Prof. ANNICK DE HOUWER

Professur für Spracherwerb und Mehrsprachigkeit  
Direktorin, Forschungs- und Beratungsstelle für Mehrsprachigkeit und harmonische bilinguale Entwicklung  
(MehrHarmonie)  
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A short biography: Annick De Houwer is Professor of Language Acquisition and Multilingualism at the University of Erfurt in Germany. She has been invited to speak across the globe. Her textbooks and research papers on early child bilingualism are used as teaching materials all over the world. In addition to bilingual acquisition, her work covers methodological issues in language studies, Dutch child language, language, standard-dialect variation, second language acquisition, teen language, and intralingual subtitling. She has initiated the Harmonious Bilingualism Network because of her interest in bilingual families' well-being. Annick has lived in 5 countries across 3 continents and leads a multilingual life.

Elisabetta Di Giovanni  
Assistant Professor of Anthropology  
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A short biography:

She is Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Palermo where she teaches Ethnohistory, Social Anthropology and Anthropology of contemporaneity. Her main research topics are Religious anthropology

(patronage and youth religiosity), Roma Studies. She is the convenor of the University of Palermo Summer School on "Migrants, Human Rights and Democracy", which aim is to focus on forced migration, human mobilities and human rights. From 2015 she is the Sicily scientific coordinator of the Permanent Observatory on Religious Pluralism with Gris (Group of Socio-Religious Research and Information) of Bologna, in collaboration with the Universities of Bologna, Milan Catholic, Turin.

Sabrina Colombo

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A short biography:

Sabrina Colombo is a junior researcher at the Institute of Applied Linguistics, Eurac Research, in Bolzano (Italy). She obtained a Bachelor's degree in Italy and a Master's degree in Germany. Her research areas include multilingualism, old and new minorities, language policy and planning in the family and in the educational system.

Maria Stopfner  
Accademia Europea Bolzano  
senior researcher  
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A short biography:

Maria Stopfner is working as a senior researcher at the Institute for Applied Linguistics, Eurac Research, in Bolzano (Italy). Her main research interests concern multilingualism, migration and language, especially, how languages and language communities in historically multilingual regions interrelate with new forms of multilingualism because of migration.

Hilde De Smedt  
coordinator Multilingualism  
Foyer vzw – Brussels  
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A short biography:

Hilde De Smedt is a speech therapist and has thirty years of experience at the integration center, 'Foyer' ([www.foyer.be](http://www.foyer.be)), in Brussels. In close contact with ethnic minorities, and throughout numerous projects (i.a. multilingual education), she has gathered considerable expertise in the field of multilingual development in children. She has developed supporting tools for schools, parents and caregivers while conducting training sessions as well. At 'Foyer' she is currently in charge of the Advieswerking Meertalig Kind (advisory board on the multilingual child), which is comprised of a team of language analysts with a focus on the evaluation of the home language of children with language-learning disabilities. She is the coordinator of the TALES@home project.

Patrizia Civetta  
Project worker multilingualism  
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A short biography:

Patrizia Civetta was born in Bolzano (Italy) but now she has been living for 20 years in Brussels. She is working at Foyer, Brussels. Her main themes concern integration and multilingualism, maintenance of the mother language by migrants and refugees. She is also occupied with the organization of reading aloud sessions in different languages in order to improve the knowledge of the mother language by children and their parents.

Brian De Lord

Psychotherapist, lecturer and CEO  
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A short biography:

Brian is a former Head-Teacher, youth worker, psychotherapist, lecturer and CEO. He has extensive experience of providing integrated services for the most excluded groups and training for those supporting them.

Having qualified as an English & Drama teacher, he quickly established a strong interest in pupils unable to engage in their education. There followed a lengthy period of running on-site behaviour units in secondary schools, followed by an exploration of the possibilities of informal and community education as

a Senior Youth worker. He then founded and was Head-teacher and CEO of the Pupil Parent Partnership, a service for excluded and vulnerable young people, for 20 years. During this time he also developed and delivered a Post- Graduate Certificate course in Counselling & Guidance Skills for Brunel University, as well as an MA in Social Inclusion for Manchester Metropolitan University. This was followed by the creation of a new charity, Europeace Youth, which also delivered alternative education services to students referred by local authorities, but also led and participated in a range of European Commission funded projects focusing on vulnerable young people. He also has 15 years' experience of developing and delivering a range of EU funded projects.

Bob Townley  
Researcher and evaluator  
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A short biography:

Bob is a highly experienced researcher and evaluator specialising in the evaluation of publicly-funded projects and programmes; particularly those funded through the EU. Over the past 20 years he has successfully delivered over 50 projects in association with a range of research and evaluation consultancies including Wavehill Ltd, York Consulting, Research as Evidence, CERI (Kingston University), LEPU (South Bank University) and GLE Strategies – and most recently, DHR (Double Helix Resources Ltd). Over this period he has also been employed as Head of Research and Evaluation for a London Learning and Skills Council and Research and Evaluation Manager at Creative Skillset (the UK-wide Sector Skills Council for the Creative Industries). His specialisms are education, employment, skills, discrimination, diversity, mental health, wellbeing, community development and small businesses / SMEs. He has provided consultancy services to the Welsh Government and the European Commission, particularly in relation to discrimination and diversity in employment. He has brought this range of experience together in completing a

PhD study exploring issues of change, loss, mourning and identity within organisations