

# UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



**ESRC Researcher Development Initiative (Round 4)**

**3 year project in advanced research training, May 2010-April 2013**

***Researching multilingualism, multilingualism in research practice (RES 046-25-0004)***

## **Final conference**

### **Responding to contemporary multilingual realities, recasting research methodologies**

MOSAIC Centre for Research on Multilingualism  
School of Education, University of Birmingham, March 25 & 26, 2013

Over the last two decades, sociolinguistic research on multilingualism has been transformed. Two broad processes of change have been at work: firstly, there has been a broad epistemological shift to a critical and ethnographic approach, one that has reflected and contributed to the wider turn, across the social sciences, towards critical and poststructuralist perspectives on social life. Secondly, there has been increasing focus on the social, cultural and linguistic changes ushered in by globalisation, by transnational population flows, by the advent of new communication technologies and by the changes taking place in the political and economic landscape of different regions of the world. These changes have had major implications for the ways in which we conceptualise the relationship between language and society and the multilingual realities of the contemporary era. A new sociolinguistics of multilingualism is now being forged: one that takes account of the new communicative order and the particular cultural conditions of our times, while retaining a central concern with the processes involved in the construction of social difference and social inequality.

The purpose of this final conference of the ESRC RDI project on *Researching multilingualism, multilingualism in research practice* is to reflect on the nature of the changes that have been taking place in the ways in which we approach the teaching of research methodology courses in this field and to map out new directions, focusing on methodologies that are best attuned to research on linguistic diversity in the late modern era.

*If you are interested in participating in this event, please contact Teresa Wendler [t.wendler@bham.ac.uk](mailto:t.wendler@bham.ac.uk). For further information please get in touch with the conference organisers: Marilyn Martin-Jones [m.martinjones@bham.ac.uk](mailto:m.martinjones@bham.ac.uk) and Deirdre Martin [d.m.martin@bham.ac.uk](mailto:d.m.martin@bham.ac.uk). Places are limited so early registration is advised.*