



**ESRC Researcher Development Initiative (RDI - Round 4)**  
**3 year project in advanced research training, May 2010-April 2013**  
***Researching multilingualism, multilingualism in research practice (RES 046-25-0004)***

***New times, new mobilities and communicative practices: challenges for minority language research***

**2-3 May, 2012, MOSAIC Centre for Research on Multilingualism, University of Birmingham**

Two-day thematic workshop (organised in collaboration with *IAITH: The Welsh Centre for Language Planning*). The workshop included a Master Class by Professor Monica Heller (University of Toronto) on the theme: ***Mobilities, multilingualism and methods***

**SUMMARY OF EVALUATIONS**

(15 completed forms and follow-up comments)

**1. Marketing and publicity**

Q: How did you hear about the workshop and Master Class?

- From the organisers (4)
- At the *New Speakers* conference in Edinburgh (3)
- Via the BAAL mailing list (1)
- From my supervisor/former supervisor (3)
- Via this ESRC project mailing list (1)
- From a colleague (2)
- Via the Language Policy listserv (1)

**2. Positive features (organisation or content)**

Q: What were the positive features, in your view?

- Outstanding presenters, interesting discussions, good mix of researchers, an excellent experience
- Opportunity for discussion in small groups, meeting doctoral researchers doing similar research
- Excellent opportunity for networking
- Presence of Ph.D. students, diversity of presentations
- Opportunity to discuss and learn about new methodologies – have enjoyed the workshop and hope to attend something similar in the future
- World class researchers, small scale event – thank you for an enriching two days
- Very dynamic, friendly environment, great networking opportunity, excellent ideas and debate
- New research products & interesting discussion – as a continuation of the previous workshop, this one is as enlightening, educating and inspiring

- Very welcoming to newcomers, interesting & varied presentations, great question and answer sessions
- Another excellent workshop, a chance to get together and a great range of talks
- Opportunities to speak & work with fellow researchers (junior and experienced)
- So much information, fantastic, a wide diversity of speakers, a great open atmosphere, very approachable & friendly set-up, encouraged discussion
- The many different ‘voices’, the broad variety of contexts & projects involving ethnographic approaches
- A very interesting and informative workshop, innovative and thought-provoking
- The focus on research methodology was most valuable

### **3. Areas for improvement** (e.g. organisation or content)

Q: Is there anything that could have been improved?

*(Where points were mentioned by several participants – this is indicated below. Other points were just raised by one person)*

- More opportunity for group work (5)
- Maybe receiving abstracts, programme and bio-data for participants beforehand (2)
- Inclusion of non-European minority languages (an example or two) & receiving a summary of research at MOSAIC (incl. Ph.D) & possible Ph.D. presentations
- Clearer announcement of schedule/venue changes
- More frequent and shorter breaks
- Smaller rooms for group work – it was difficult to hear/participate
- The Master Class group work did not work well, not enough focus or feedback
- Slightly more time for questions and discussion

### **4. Comments received later** (e.g. via e-mail)

I found the seminar and the Master Class very useful and inspiring. Having so many ‘minority language’ researchers in one place is quite rare (Doctoral researcher from Austria).

Thank you so much for organising and hosting a splendid seminar and Master Class in Birmingham last week. The dialogue between researchers was very valuable. (Member of the Advisory Group).

Many thanks ... for such a stimulating and successful training event last week. I found both days extremely useful and came away from Birmingham feeling inspired and (re)-motivated (Doctoral researcher from Scotland).

It was great to be there – very stimulating indeed and so nicely organized as well (Senior researcher from the USA).

Thank you for a rather stunning and very well organised Master Class. I thoroughly enjoyed it and it gave me much food for thought (Mid-career researcher in the UK)