

Professor Li Wei



Plenary Title:

Rethinking LSP, Academic Language and Professional Communication from a Translanguaging Perspective

Translanguaging transcends boundaries: boundaries between named languages, and boundaries between language and other cognitive and semiotic systems. Translanguaging also transforms the way we think and talk about things, including language, cognition, and learning. In this thinking aloud piece, I want to explore the implications of translanguaging for languages for specific purposes (LSP) and professional communication. In particular, I want to reflect on the notions of LSP and academic language in terms of knowledge systems, power dynamics, and social justice. I also want to explore alternative ways of thinking and talking about professional communication. Classic sociolinguistic and sociological concepts of ‘prestige’ and ‘privilege’ will be discussed with examples of communicative practices of transnational and transcultural individuals and communities in professional contexts.

Workshop Title:

Translanguaging: what is it about and why is it necessary?

This workshop traces the developments of translanguaging as a pedagogical approach, an analytical perspective and a theoretical construct. It will take the participants through diverse genres of translanguaging practices, and demonstrate what translanguaging analysis does and what added values it has.

Bio of the speaker:

Li Wei is Chair Professor of Applied Linguistics at University College London (UCL) and Director of the UCL Centre for Applied Linguistics. His research covers different aspects of language contact, bilingualism and multilingualism. His publications won the British Association of Applied Linguistics Book Prize twice, in 2009 for *The Blackwell Guide to Research Methods in Bilingualism and Multilingualism* (with Mellisa Moyer), and in 2015 for *Translanguaging: Language, Bilingualism and Education* (with Ofelia Garcia). He is Editor of the *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism* and *Principal Editor of Applied Linguistics Review*. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Social Sciences (AcSS), UK.