



Social cohesion at work: shared languages as mortar in professional settings

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Symposium format:

- **Multimodal Symposium**

Symposium mode:

- **Hybrid**

Sub-themes:

- **LANGUAGES IN PROFESSIONS:** translation & interpreting, transdisciplinarity, education, didactics, law, medicine, food, economics, forensics

Short abstract in English:

This symposium aims to identify and discuss the multiple factors that shape and influence the development of shared languages from theoretical and practical angles and how this affects social cohesion at work. From theoretical angles, contributions could explain the interplay of various key drivers that shape the usage and success of shared languages. From practical angles, contributions could elaborate on potential pitfalls and benefits for practitioners.

Argument

Social cohesion at work requires shared languages – they are an “invisible operational mortar” (McKenna, 2021: 102) that further strengthens the communication, relationship and mutual understanding among and between the stakeholders. This holds true on scaling levels, in interpersonal dialogue at the workplace (Holmes & Woodhams 2013, Wozniak 2019), in professional settings within organisations (Whitehouse 2017), and in communication with stakeholders in public discourse (Rahm, Sandell & Svensson 2020).

This symposium aims to identify and discuss the multiple factors that shape and influence the development of shared languages from theoretical and practical angles (Whitehouse & *et al.* 2021) and how this affects social cohesion at work. From theoretical angles, the contributions, e.g., could explain the interplay of various key drivers that shape the usage and success of shared languages in an increasingly digitized and glocalised professional world. From practical angles, the contributions could elaborate on potential pitfalls and benefits for practitioners when developing shared languages, e.g., how practitioners can engage in – and benefit from – research projects by co-creating knowledge together with academic researchers based on shared languages.

Thus we expect contributions to present state-of-the art research in vocational and occupational varieties of languages in both blue-collar and white-collar professional communities (e.g., education, business, health, social work, law, engineering, building, cooking), encompassing various methodological approaches to professional languages and communities, which could include, e.g., ethnographic approaches and conversation analysis, discourse analysis, content analysis, genre analysis, corpus studies. As such, the symposium is open for presentations from the fields of business communication, languages for specific purposes, languages in the professions and workplace linguistics, as well as from other professional settings and discourses, e.g., education, social work, economics and law.



References

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- Rahm, H., N. Sandell & P. Svensson. (2020). Corporate dreams – Appropriate aspirations and the building of trust in annual reports. *Studies in Communication Sciences* 20 (1), 77–91.
- Whitehouse, M. (2017). Financial analysts and their role in financial communication and investor relations. In Laskin, A. V. (ed.), *Handbook of Financial Communication and Investor Relations*. Wiley, 117-126.
- Whitehouse, M., H. Rahm & S. Wozniak (ed.). (2021). Developing Shared Languages. The fundamentals of mutual learning and problem solving in transdisciplinary collaboration: Introduction. *AILA Review* 34(1), 1–18.
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