

Social (In)justice, Indigeneity and Coloniallingualism: Recognition, Resistance and Re-Existence

PROGRAMME 26-27 February 2026

Day 1 (26 February 2026)

09.00 - 09.30 Registration and Coffee

09.30 - 09.45 Welcome remarks by AIAS Director Andreas Roepstorff

09.45 - 10.45 *Session One (Keynote One)*
Chaired By Suruchi Thapar-Björkert (Uppsala University)

Rakel Österberg (Stockholm University)
Between Recognition and Re-Existence: Spanish heritage speakers,
Coloniallingualism, and Social (In)Justice in Sweden

10:45 – 11:00 Break

11.00– 12.00 *Session Two: Sápmi Multilingualism, Cultural Traditions and Linguistic Activisms*
Chaired By Rakel Österberg (Stockholm University)

Erik Wolf (Aarhus University)
“Medieval Multilingualism in Sápmi between Written Sources and
Historiography”

Erika Devivo (The Arctic University of Norway)
“Gula (listen)! Linguistic activism and daily practices of resistance at
Márkomeannu festival”

12.00 Lunch Break

13.00 – 14.30 *Session Three: Vernacular Epistemologies and Activist Readings*
Chaired by Ushma Chauhan Jacobsen (Aarhus University)

Keynote Two: Nishat Zaidi (Jamia Millia Islamia)
“Vernacular Life-Worlds as Decolonial Method: Examining Intizar Husain’s
Non-fiction Writings”

Kaisa Ilmonen (University of Turku)
“Intersectional Reading as Activism: Seven Steps for Intersectionally Activist
Reading. Case Pajtim Statovci’s Crossing”

14.30 – 14.45 Break

14.45 – 16.15 *Session Four – Languages in/and Education Policy: Decolonising the Field*
Chaired by Suruchi Thapar-Björkert (Uppsala University)

Navneet Kumar (Mount Royal University)

“Decolonising English in India: Caste, Epistemic Justice, and the Contradictions of NEP” (online)

Giti Chandra and Sólveig Ásta (University of Iceland)

“Language and Decoloniality: The University of Iceland and issues surrounding Icelandic”

Xolisa Guzula (University of Cape Town)

“De/coloniality in South African Language in Education Policy: Resisting marginalisation of multilingual children and forcing re-existence of African languages in education for Epistemic Justice.”

16.30- onwards- Networking reception at AIAS / Dinner

Day 2 (27 February 2026)

09.00-09.15 Coffee

09.15 – 10:15 *Session Five: (Linguistic)Rights of Indigenous and Minority Communities*
Chaired by Xolisa Guzula (University of Cape Town)

Paola Vargas Arana (University of Manchester)

“Reconfiguring Linguistic Colonialities: Afro-Descendant Creoles, Legal Recognition, and the Geographies of Racialised Exclusion in Colombia”

Rada Iveković, Independent Researcher, Paris

“Linguistic post-Yugoslavia: Post-socialist linguistic conditions vs. the Post-colonial ones” (online)

10.15 – 10.30 Break

10.30 - 12.00 *Session Six: Digital Colonialities and Linguistic Entanglements*
Chaired by Elisabetta Ferrari (Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies)

Ushma Chauhan Jacobsen (Aarhus University)

“Transversal exchange in videoing the ‘Spirits of Language Entanglements.’”

Steven S George (King’s College London)

“Memory and Memorialization: Digital Mnemonic Methods in the Pandemic”

Jinan Thenuttikallingal (University of Calicut)
"Re-Configuring Digital Colonialities: Indigenous Multilingual Futures and Digital Inclusion in the Tribal Settlements of South India." (online)

12.00 - 13.00 Lunch Break

13.00 - 14.00 *Session Seven: Decentering the Dominant Language Narratives*
Chaired by Nishat Zaidi (Jamia Millia Islamia)

Mithilesh Kumar Jha (IIT Guwahati)
"Colonial language policy, 'Hindi heartland' and the making of Maithili Public Sphere" (online)

Anubha Anushree (University of Delhi)
"Heritage Scripts, Lost Knowledges: Kaithi and the Making of Linguistic Injustice" (online)

14.00 - 14.15 Break

14.15- 15.15 *Session Eight: Generating Texts and Decolonial Imaginaries*
Chaired by Mads Rosendahl Thomsen (Aarhus University)

Feryal Bandey (University of Cambridge)
"Mediatory Translation as a Decolonial Practice in Kashmir" (online)

Zahra Rizvi (University of Bergen)
"Narrative Geographies of India and Norway in GPT Stories"

15.15-16.15 *Session Nine: Panel Debate: Decolonial Dialogues and the Specter of English?*
Coordinated by Bharti Arora (Aarhus Institute of Advanced Studies)

Nishat Zaidi (Jamia Millia Islamia)
Suruchi Thapar-Björkert (Uppsala University)
Ushma Chauhan Jacobsen (Aarhus University)

16.15-16.30 *Concluding Remarks*