



POLYGLOT GATHERING

A MULTILINGUAL GATHERING FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

PROGRAM BOOK

BRATISLAVA, 29TH MAY – 2ND JUNE 2019

POLYGLOTBRATISLAVA.COM



Lehrbücher

Audio-CDs

Lernsoftware

mp3-CD

H

hrvatski český

polSKI

日本語

english

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RE

italiano

magyar

suomi

Bahasa Indonesia

汉语

Ελληνικά

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norsk

LESEN

svenska

русский

Nederlands

Deutsch

العربية

română

VERSTEHEN

tiếng Việt

português

latina

हिन्दी

WIEDERHOLEN

dansk

español

فارسی

SELBST SPRECHEN



Spaß an Sprachen! Überall wo es Bücher gibt und auf AssimilWelt.com



Universala Esperanto-Asocio

Esperanto is used in addition to the mother tongue and possibly other languages.

It is a bridge between the different language communities.



Esperanton oni uzas aldone al sia gepatra kaj eble aliaj lingvoj.

Ĝi estas ponto inter la malsamaj lingvaj komunumoj.

People usually learn Esperanto several times faster than other languages.



Homoj kutime sukcesas lerni Esperanton plurfoje pli rapide ol aliajn lingvojn.

Several millions of people learned Esperanto (1.6 million by Duolingo alone).

About a thousand people are Esperanto native speakers.



Pluraj milionoj da homoj lernis Esperanton (1,6 milionoj nur per Duolingo).

Proksimume mil homoj estas Esperanto-denkaskuloj.

UEA

organizes Esperanto congresses, coordinates national and specialized associations in more than 120 countries.



UEA

organizes Esperanto-kongresojn, kunordigas landajn kaj fakajn asociojn en pli ol 120 landoj.

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The Polyglot Gathering 2019 is taking place under the patronage of:

the Slovak Commission for UNESCO;

– Martina Lubyová, Minister of Education, Science, Research and Sport of the Slovak Republic;

– Ferdinand Daňo, rector of the University of Economics in Bratislava;

– Matúš Vallo, mayor of Bratislava, the capital of the Slovak Republic;

– Juraj Droba, chairman of the Bratislava self-governing region.



Under the patronage of
Slovak Commission
for UNESCO

Pod záštitou
Slovenskej komisie
pre UNESCO

The official organizer of Polyglot Gathering 2019 is E@I, a non-profit organization based in Slovakia, which coordinates various projects supporting language learning (lingvo.info, slovake.eu, lernu.net, deutsch.info, mluvtecesky.net, ruskyy.info among others).



Join us on twitter.com/PolyglotGat, tweet with **#polyglotgathering**.
For live updates from the organizers and participants use Telegram:
<https://t.me/polyglotgathering>

Hello! / Ahojte! / Saluton!

We are so happy to welcome you all to the sixth edition of the Polyglot Gathering, held for the third time in Bratislava, Slovakia! It is the biggest one so far, with more than 600 participants from more than 60 countries.

The Polyglot Gathering originated as an event held in 2014 by Judith Meyer, Chuck Smith and Martin Sawitzki. They loved the first Polyglot Conference in Budapest organized by Richard Simcott and wanted to create more opportunities for the polyglot community to meet, talk about languages, talk *in* languages and just hang out with like-minded people.



Today, there is a large community of polyglots and language enthusiasts meeting regularly at language events such as the Polyglot Gathering, the Polyglot Conference (this year in Fukuoka, Japan) and LangFest (in Montreal, Canada). If you are new to it, welcome! If you've been to any of these events, welcome back! You'll definitely recognize a few faces. (If you're not sure what language you spoke with them – check their badge with the language flags! Who knows, you might have a new language in common since your last meeting...)

This year, we are gathering in Bratislava for the third time because last year's participants loved it so much here. The University of Economics gives us great opportunities to listen to interesting talks (which will be available on YouTube afterwards), participate in workshops (both language-related and non-language-related ones), enjoy lunches and dinners together in the canteen, dance at a multilingual concert, taste world's specialties at the culinary festival, exchange books at the book-crossing zone, speak any language other than English at the non-English zone, play polyglot games, etc. Many of you will also participate in great trips both in and around Bratislava.

We can't promise you the best weather for the whole 5 days but we can promise you *fun* – as long as you are at least a bit open to meeting new people. You'll see what a nice and welcoming community this is. Just come up to someone, look at their badge and ask them about any of the languages that you recognize from the flags. You'll see how easy it is to start a conversation even with complete strangers if you know they have something in common with you – and we all do love languages!

This is the time and place for you to make new friends, get to know Bratislava, learn interesting stuff about languages, practise the ones you know and fully enjoy this Polyglot Gathering!

In the name of the whole team of individual volunteers,
Jitka Vršovská and Peter Baláž

Peter Baláž: Head organizer



Peter Baláž, in Esperanto known as Petro, is an Esperantist, publisher and editor. He lives in his hometown of Partizánske and speaks, to various degrees, Slovak, Czech, German, Polish, Russian and English, as well as Esperanto. Peter is especially active in the international Esperanto movement and educational projects, and in 2005 he became the coordinator of E@I. He is also known as an organiser of international events (mainly, but not only, Esperanto meetings). He owns the Slovakia-based publishing firm Espero, founded in 2003, which publishes mainly Esperanto works.

Jitka Vršovská: Head organizer



Jitka, also known as Jiti, comes originally from Prague, Czech Republic and has been living now for 4 years in Berlin, Germany. Jitka studied in 7 European countries, worked for several international corporations, the European Commission in Brussels and now runs a non-profit startup incubator for vegan businesses in Berlin (www.provegincubator.com) and can currently speak 8 languages while learning 3 more, including Esperanto. Jitka and her sister Lucy translated the book *How to Create a Vegan World* which was published by Peter Baláž's publishing company Espero.

Dorota Rodzianko: Administration and finances



Dorota is from Poland and currently lives in Slovakia. She studied economics. Since 2010, she has been organizing international events in various European cities and countries. Since 2012, she has been mostly in charge of administration of participants and finances. She has experience in organizing events with up to 1300 participants.

Matthieu Desplantes: Web support, program booklet



Matthieu is from France but has been living in Slovakia for five years. He studied computer engineering and now works with both computers and languages. He speaks (to various degrees) French, Esperanto, English, Slovak and Russian, and he can pretend he speaks a few more languages. Aside from languages and travelling, he is interested in science, critical thinking and cooking.

Elisa Polese: Evening programs



Elisa is a professional language teacher and language enthusiast. She teaches Italian, German, English, Spanish, Russian, French, Dutch, Catalan, Portuguese, Greek, Hindi, Arabic and Esperanto (at different levels). She is specialised in multilingual teaching and helps students to learn several languages at the same time and speak them from day one without mixing them up. She is a certified language examiner and holds two BAs in Translating and Interpreting, a MA in International Communication and a MA in Didactics.

Elisa organises workshops where you can start speaking one or more languages from the very first moment and have your first conversation after a few minutes. She is also a language mentor and coach. Check out her books and videos on speakfromdayonewithelisa.com.

Michal Grodza: Volunteer coordinators



Michal Grodza was born in the Eastern part of Slovakia and is able to speak French, Polish, English and Turkish. He developed his passion for languages as a child watching Cartoon Network. Even though he graduated as a teacher of English, he fell in love with non-formal education and works as youth couch and coordinator of multicultural youth exchanges and training courses.

Kryštof Klestil: On-site help



Kryštof was born in Czechia and grew up in the northern part of London. He's one of the few people in Slovakia to have experience teaching English using the "famed but undiscovered" SpeakYourMind method, five years in total. His interests and skills range from 3D modelling and knitting to eating with chopsticks, travelling but most of all it's meeting people, seeing what makes them tick, understanding life from their experiential and perceptual

set of values as presented by their current state of mind. Being more-or-less bilingual, languages have always been a part of his life.

Edoardo Nannotti: Design



Edoardo was born in 1985 in the Southeast tip of Italy. He is a programmer and a graphic designer. Not religious, but a believer in free knowledge and societies without hierarchy. He likes cooking, capoeira and art that can make you laugh and think at the same time.

Michal Nejeschleba: Trips



Michal is from Bratislava where he is active as a tour guide. His passions include hiking, history and languages, all of which he combines in his project Green Hat Tours. The resulting trips are a combination of hiking, networking and learning about local culture and history in fun and memorable ways.

Georg Jähnig: Talks and video recordings



Georg grew up in Berlin bilingually with German and Polish. His fascination both for languages and computers made him study Computational Linguistics and learn foreign languages simply by not forgetting what he overheard at various places. Besides Esperanto, he's also active in the rationalist's community "Less Wrong". Right now, he works as a freelance programmer and blogger in Berlin and the Canary Islands.

Gabriel Gelman: Sponsors and online marketing



Gabriel was born in Ukraine but grew up in Hannover, Germany. For the past two years he lived in Berlin. He grew up bilingual with German and Russian but only discovered his passion for languages when going abroad for a school year to Australia. He blogs about his hobby language learning on the German website Sprachheld.de, which has become one of the most popular resources in Germany. He also runs the online marketing agency Netzbekannt, which serves businesses in the language learning industry as well.

At the Polyglot Gathering he is using this expertise to find sponsors and help out with the online marketing.

Sofia Zaretskaia: Visa issues



Sofia is a young inspiring lawyer from Moscow, with fiery hair that perfectly represents the personality of this self-driven individual carrying an innate interest and love for sloths, dogs and all those beautiful little "weirdnesses" only life knows how to do.

Lina Vasquez: Social media



Lina Vasquez is a Latvian-Australian professional language teacher, Youtuber and content creator living in Berlin. Born in Latvia, she grew up travelling between Latvia and Australia and was inspired to learn languages by her mother and multicultural environment; growing up with a Peruvian step-father and a Latvian mother. After studying law, French, German, Russian and Italian at university, she now speaks 7 languages and runs a teaching business while learning her 8th and 9th. She speaks English, German, Latvian, Spanish, French, Russian, Italian Portuguese and Swedish (to various degrees) and can string together sentences in a number of others. In 2017 she published her first book *The Busy Linguist Bible* and her goal in life is to inspire people and transform the way society views, learns and experiences foreign languages.

Cesco Reale: Polyglot games and moderation



A scientific communicator, Cesco deals with games, languages and maths, creating festivals, exhibitions and conferences. He speaks more than 10 languages, including Latin and Esperanto, and holds the IPA certificate in phonetics. He is also the UN representative for the World Esperanto Association and the creator of Limbas, language seminar in Italy.

Volunteers from E@I

The volunteers from the organization E@I also help organizing the Polyglot Gathering 2019 as part of their European Voluntary Service, co-financed by the European Union.

Salomé Hug: On-site help



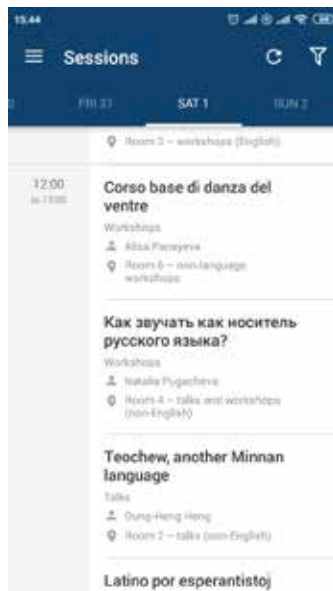
Salomé studied computer programming, linguistics and cognitive science in France. She also likes travelling and strives to understand the world.

Léa Pillot-Colin: On-site help



I'm French, a little lost in this country, but most of the time really happy. I'm an EVS, that's really cool. But being French is cooler. I try to learn Icelandic and Esperanto. I don't know why. But maybe, to write poetry in others languages than mine is, somehow, my purpose. I'm 20 and my name is Léa. If you do not find me, it's because I'm having a headache.

This year, we have prepared for you an **Android application** that will make browsing the Polyglot Gathering program easier! You will have the schedule with detailed descriptions in your pocket and you will be able to mark the talks you want to attend. To install it, search “Polyglot Gathering 2019” in Google Play or scan this QR code:



You want to use another application? You can also find the program in iCal format:

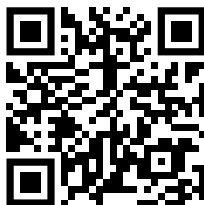
<https://www.polyglotbratislava.com/program.ics>

Or in Pentabarf XML (read by the app Giggity):

<https://www.polyglotbratislava.com/program.xml>

You don't have Android? No problem, there is a web version available at:

<http://program.polyglotbratislava.com>



The Polyglot Gathering 2019 in Bratislava is being prepared in cooperation with Judith Meyer and Chuck Smith, the initiators of the Polyglot Gathering event series and head organizers of the first three editions of the Polyglot Gathering in Berlin.

Time				
15:00-18:00	Board games (p. 78) Try multifunctional IMAGLEE cards	Speed polyglotting and Big Talk (p. 75) Cesco Reale <i>Gufujo</i>	Icebreaker games, communicative language games and role-plays in different languages (p. 75) Elisa Polese <i>Esperanto room</i>	Registration
18:00-19:30	Dinner			
19:30-20:30	Opening ceremony <i>Auditorium</i>			
20:30-22:00	Intercultural communication: dos and don'ts around the world (p. 77) Elisa Polese <i>Esperanto room</i>			

#LangFest19

www.LangFest.org

Université de Montréal



David J. Peterson



Featuring



Marc Okrand

Time	Room 1. E@I	Room 2. Assimil	Room 3. Multilingual Speakers
	English talks	Non-English talks	English workshops
9:00-10:00	Jack of all languages (p. 63) Richard Simcott	« Septante », vous avez dit « septante » ?! (p. 67) Simon Lejeune	
10:00-11:00	What I learned from 500+ language exchanges in 3 months (p. 64) Rick Dearman	Warum lernen Sprachliebhaber besser Fremdsprachen? (p. 42) Heidrun Töth-Loesti	Language hegemony in the world – any chance to avoid it? (p. 76) Moderator: Federico Gobbo
11:00-12:00	Why different languages have different scripts (p. 42) Gaston Dorren	Kann man eine Fremdsprache auch im höheren Alter noch lernen? (p. 40) Gabriel Gelman	
12:00-13:00	The sincerest form of flattery: Imitating foreign accents to help master any language (p. 65) Ruben Adery	Lužická srbština – Jazyk/y jednoho méně známého slovanského národu (p. 57) Momtchil Karaguiozov	Irish for beginners (p. 65) Seán Ó Riain
13:00-15:00	Lunch		
15:00-16:00	Preserving indigenous languages: maintaining cultural diversity in an increasingly uniform world (p. 28) Brian Loo Soon Hua	From Hieroglyphs to Emoji: una breve historia des langues visuelles (p. 25) Cesco Reale, André Müller	Speaking from day one: an interactive multilingual class (Italian, Spanish, French and German) (p. 37) Elisa Polese
16:00-17:00	Hey, polyglots! Endangered languages need your help! (p. 32) Dave Prine	Assimil, 90 Jahre jung: Die kleinen Geheimnisse des Erfolgs für 9- bis 99-jährige Lerner (sponsored) (p. 63) Philippe Gagneur, Daniel Krasa	Housesitting 4 in 1: travelling, pet cuddles, language practice & going local (p. 26) Bea Laszlo
17:00-18:00	So you want to learn a minority language with very little resources? No problem! (p. 25) André Müller	Learning and teaching languages through board games (p. 23) Alexander Mynzak	Introduction to Sign Language (p. 68) Sonia Jin
18:00-19:30	Dinner		
20:00-21:30	International Culinary Festival (p. 75) <i>Esperanto room</i>		
21:30-22:30	Polyglot karaoke (p. 75) Marta Melnyk, <i>Esperanto room</i>		

Room 4. Vortoj	Room 5. Amikumu	Room 6. Esperanto
Non-English talks and workshops	More talks	Non-language workshops / Social events
		Aligatorejo (p. 79)
Como iniciar um Encontro Poliglota (bem sucedido!) em sua cidade (p. 32) Danilo Belo Daniel	Slavic inflections: a travel guide (p. 58) Olga Diacova	
How to order In a Japanese restaurant (p. 40) Eriko Tamura	What is it like to translate at the European Commission? (p. 60) Oscar Hughes	What are you dancing about? (p. 54) Marta Melnyk
Il siciliano. Introduzione e approccio alla lingua (p. 52) Marcello Boni	Polari: the secret language of the gay community (p. 23) Beth Desmond	
Lunch		
Enkonduko al la mokŝa lingvo (p. 48) Kelvin Jackson	Language Planning in Ireland – lessons from the Hebrew Revival? (p. 65) Seán Ó Riain	Scottish Gaelic song workshop (p. 66) Simon Ager
L'«ascolto autentico» delle canzoni: un modo rapido e divertente per imparare l'italiano! (p. 34) Davide Bozzo	Basque–Icelandic pidgin (p. 68) Siru Laine	El quest musical (p. 43) Irina Terentieva
	From فنجان to <i>pinggan</i> , from 茶 to <i>arbata</i> : Loanwords and the history of the world (p. 27) Brian Loo Soon Hua	
Dinner		
International Culinary Festival (p. 75) <i>Esperanto room</i>		
Polyglot games (p. 77) Cesco Reale, <i>Gufujo</i>		

Time	Room 1. E@I	Room 2. Assimil	Room 3. Multilingual Speakers
	English talks	Non-English talks	English workshops
9:00-10:00			
10:00-11:00	How to learn a language by watching TV and films (p. 45) Katie Harris	Láska je slepá, ça fait même apprendre des langues ! (p. 67) Simon Lejeune, Magdaléna Lendvorská	Learning programming languages for polyglots – what, how and why (p. 47) Kamil Nguyen Van
11:00-12:00	The potentials and pitfalls of language exchange (sponsored) (p. 71) Tobias Dickmeis	Ventajas cognitivas de los políglotas en el mercado laboral (p. 35) Eduardo Teiga	Learning to write the Bengali script through comics (p. 26) Arijit Kole, Timothy McKeon
12:00-13:00	The potential effects of language switching on self-concept, values and personality expression – examining the evidence (p. 63) Tim Keeley	Start your own language school and teach like a polyglot (p. 22) Alexander Mynzak	
13:00-15:00	Lunch		
15:00-16:00	Making yourself understood in international English (p. 55) Mateusz Pietraszek	Multilingualism in the EU after Brexit: challenges and opportunities (p. 40) Federico Gobbo	Speaking from day one: an interactive multilingual class (Russian, Greek and Hindi) (p. 37) Elisa Polese
16:00-17:00	Has English become the 21st century's linguistic bully? (p. 29) Brian Loo Soon Hua, Nat Dinham	Zamenhof ne estis lingvisto (p. 62) Petr Fedosov	Tricks and tools for learning new words in a foreign language (p. 44) Jadranka Bokan
17:00-18:00	My TED talk experience (p. 50) Lýdia Machová	Moin! Plattdeutsch. Eine Einführung (p. 62) Patrick Ziemke	
18:00-19:30	Dinner		
20:00-21:30	Networking event (p. 77) <i>Esperanto room</i>		

Room 4. Vortoj	Room 5. Amikumu	Room 6. Esperanto
Non-English talks and workshops	More talks	Non-language workshops / Social events
		Yoga class (p. 76) Jaiwanti Singh
Сторителлинг: как истории помогают нам учиться (p. 25) Anastasiia Martynenko		Dance around Europe (and beyond?) (p. 33) David Hart
L'espéranto en 100 minutes (p. 70) Tim Morley		“Douze points for polyglots”: How languages make Eurovision Song Contest songs win or fail (p. 22) Aleksandar Medjedovic, Marta Melnyk
Lunch		
La rhétorique en musique baroque : peindre le discours par le chant (p. 49) Loïc Paulin		Samen op weg naar een Ecopositief leven (p. 30) Carolien Caspers
Pourquoi apprendre le russe (p. 56) Matthieu Desplantes		Cèilidh / twmpath dance workshop (p. 67) Simon Ager, Maureen Millward
קיריבאטיש – די שפראך פון דעם לעצטען דור (Kiribatish: Di Sprakh fun dem Letzten Dor) (p. 46) Jared Gimbel		
Dinner		
Lightning talks evening (p. 77) <i>Vortoj room</i>		

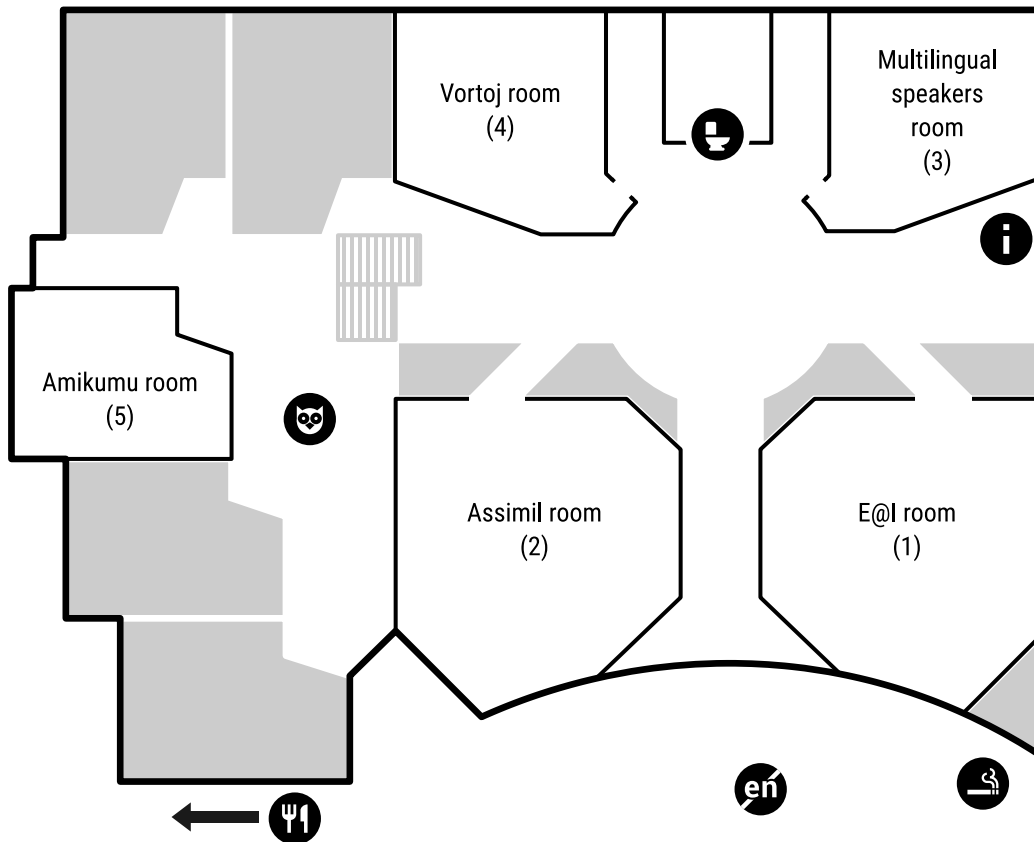
Time	Room 1. E@I	Room 2. Assimil	Room 3. Multilingual Speakers
	English talks	Non-English talks	English workshops
10:00-11:00	How changing the words we use can change our life (p. 49) Lina Vasquez	El aprendizaje significativo y su aplicación en el aprendizaje de español (p. 61) Paloma Marín Arraiza	
11:00-12:00	Four fluency principles (p. 41) Gareth Popkins	7 + 1 razones para aprender euskera, el idioma de los vascos (p. 53) Maria Spantidi	All about you in Ukrainian (p. 54) Marta Melnyk
12:00-13:00	Multiple languages in one brain – examining the executive function (p. 70) Tim Keeley	Teochew, another Minnan language (p. 61) Oung-Heng Heng	Gift or poison? Translators' false friends (p. 51) Vahagn Petrosyan, Madeline Vadkerty
13:00-15:00	Lunch		
15:00-16:00	The perfect polyglot life: making a living out of languages (p. 38) Ellen de Visser	Потерянные буквы кириллицы (p. 23) Alisa Panayeva	Speaking from day one: an interactive multilingual class (intermediate) (p. 37) Elisa Polese
16:00-17:00	The brave new world of online teaching (p. 71) Tracy Mehoke	Cómo hacer oído en el siglo XXI: dictados, bucles y el botón de pausa (p. 57) Nacho Caballero	Lightning talks (p. 76)
17:00-18:00	Corpus linguistics for language lovers (sponsored) (p. 59) Ondřej Matuška	Ob die Lateinkenntnisse wirklich helfen romanische Sprache zu lernen? (p. 64) Roman Rubtsov	Singing in Finno-Ugric languages (p. 49) Kelvin Jackson
18:00-19:30	Dinner + speakers' dinner		
20:00-22:00	Polyglots have got talent (p. 75) <i>Esperanto room</i>		

Room 4. Vortoj	Room 5. Amikumu	Room 6. Esperanto
Non-English talks and workshops	More talks	Non-language workshops / Social events
Cizí řeč a trapnost (p. 35) Dmitrij Hladký	Vademecum of multidisciplinary project “Mobility and inclusion in multilingual Europe” (p. 47) Jozef Reinwart	Your first taijiquan class (太極拳, Tai Chi) (p. 42) Heidrun Tóth-Loesti
	Let’s learn with Media-BlockPlayer (p. 45) Ján Krajčík	
Как звучать как носитель русского языка? (p. 58) Natalia Pugacheva	Latino por esperantistoj (p. 62) Petr Fedosov	Corso base di danza del ventre (p. 23) Alisa Panayeva
Lunch		
Tips for raising a multilingual child (p. 38) Elizaveta Kalugina	Don’t be offended: Insults, curses, swears...the “adult content” that nobody knows but that everybody learns in a new language (p. 21) Aleksandar Medjedovic	Como manter a fluência em mais que 5 idiomas? (p. 31) Cháira Züger
Caligrafía china con un lápiz o un bolígrafo (p. 61) Oung-Heng Heng	Language challenge – Esperanto and Hindi (p. 77)	
Dizionario dei gesti dell’italiano (p. 62) Stefano Suigo		Wine words in several languages (p. 72) Vladimír Moškvan
Dinner + speakers’ dinner		
Polyglots have got talent (p. 75) <i>Esperanto room</i>		

Time	Room 1. E@I	Room 2. Assimil	Room 3. Multilingual Speakers
	English talks	Non-English talks	English workshops
10:00-11:00	How to motivate yourself achieve more (namely learn more languages) (p. 53) Mariana Lisovska		Language matters – inclusion, equality and normcreativity (p. 58) Nathalie Töpperwien Blom
11:00-12:00	Neuroscience of language: how the brain enables us to speak? (p. 55) Marta Nowakowska	Come lingua riflette le antiche credenze popolari e le moderne scoperte scientifiche sul corpo umano (p. 23) Alisa Panayeva	
12:00-13:00	Design as a tool in language learning (p. 44) Iris Senel	Il paese poliglotta: viaggio attraverso la straordinaria (e spesso misconosciuta) diversità linguistica dell'Italia (p. 33) Davide Bozzo	Hebrew: Story of the Sleeping Beauty (p. 24) Alisa Zingerman
13:00-15:00	Lunch		
15:00-16:00	Learning the Greek alphabet – an introduction to the Script Hacking method (p. 47) Judith Meyer	Ascensão e queda da língua brasileira (p. 72) Urška Obreza	
16:00-17:00	Life after language studies: The good the bad and the ugly (p. 36) Edward Davidson	Eine kurze Geschichte der russischen Etymologie (p. 31) Daniel Mishkin	Lightning talks (p. 76)
17:00-18:00	Closing ceremony <i>E@I room</i>		
18:00-19:30	Dinner		

Room 4. Vortoj	Room 5. Amikumu	Room 6. Esperanto
Non-English talks and workshops	More talks	Non-language workshops / Social events
Mini language crash courses: “Be the teacher!” (p. 78)		Aligatorejo (p. 79)
Ludia píŝu Tisovi... o židovskej otázke (p. 51) Madeline Vadkerty	CJKV Dict – a smart dictionary for polyglots learning Chinese, Japanese, Korean and/or Vietnamese (p. 39) Emmanuel Ternon	Ni ekzercu! / Let’s exercise! (p. 36) Ekaterina Lozina
	How physical activity increases your language learning success (p. 25) Anja Spilker	Learn Hungarian with Caeyrica (p. 29) Caeyric Amnon
Lunch		
Le mystère des alphabets (p. 31) Christophe Silvestre		La música regional mexicana, y cómo la usé para mejorar mi español (p. 56) Miguel Ariza
Inledning till niueanska: språket i världens minsta självstyrande stat (p. 45) Jared Gimbel		
Closing ceremony <i>E@I room</i>		
Dinner		

POLYGLOT GATHERING BRATISLAVA, 29TH MAY – 2ND JUNE 2019



Legend



Reception / informations



Canteen



Game zone



Ash bin



Buffet



Coffee break / Language café



Concert hall



Toilet

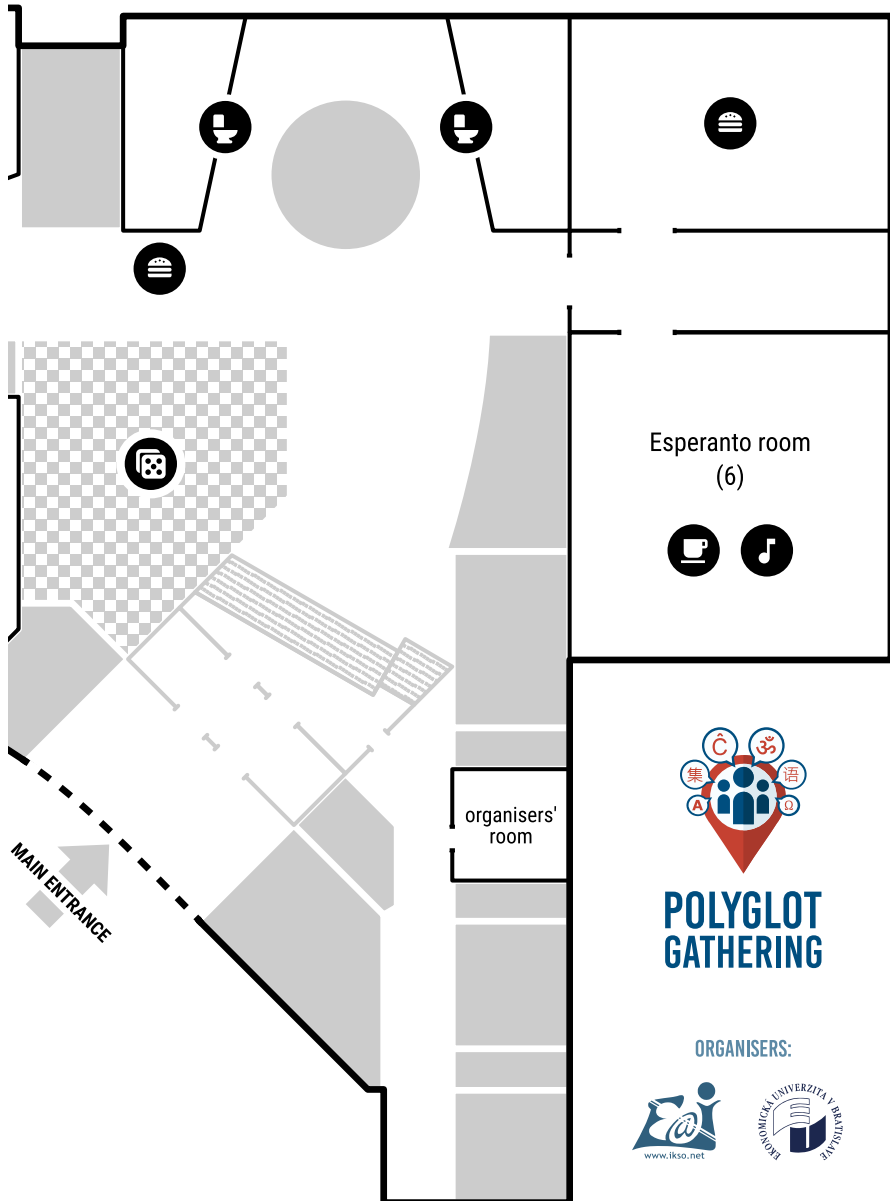


Gufujo



No-English zone

MAP OF THE GATHERING AREA



List of talks and speakers

Almost 100 interesting talks and workshops about languages and linguistics, language learning, language policy and life as a polyglot. Find all speakers in alphabetical order.

Aleksandar Medjedovic



Born in Germany and educated in Germany and France, Aleksandar Medjedovic is an Economist of Yugoslavian origin. He has been living in Turkey for the last 20 years and works as a Consultant for Foreign Investments, Business Development and Media Issues. He keeps close personal and professional links to all countries that resulted from Yugoslavia, but also to Germany, and puts those links into his own global context whenever possible. His mother tongues are German and BCS (Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian). He also speaks English, French, Spanish, Turkish, Italian, Russian and a few more.

Don't be offended: Insults, curses, swears...the "adult content" that nobody knows but that everybody learns in a new language

English, Saturday, 15:00–16:00, Amikumu room

Whether you want it or not: sooner or later everybody gets to the "adult content" while learning a language. It might sound absurd, but insults, swears, curses and slurs are an important part of each language. Words and expressions that generally seem funny and grotesque and that are taken highly offensive or inappropriate by most people are often a deep reflection of the structure and heritage of a language and the culture behind that language.

In some languages, insults and offences are mostly related to sexual matters and the "below-the-waist" area of the human body. In others, the sphere of poetry and philosophy is exploited. In many languages, insults are aimed at making harmless fun of somebody and contribute to the jolly atmosphere of an evening together, whilst in a few languages, using those words gets you a guarantee to be beaten or even killed. In many insults, medical matters, animals and the omnipresent man/woman relationship are in focus.

This lecture aims at:

- Looking at how are insults linguistically developed and influenced
- Giving examples from various languages and comparing them
- Showing how those expressions are used in different cultures, contexts and walks of life
- Explaining why sexual matters make it into the world of insults
- Examining how science and academia have treated this matters
- Pointing out the most popular, funny and bizarre examples
- Showing what can go wrong while using this type of language, and how to avoid trouble
- Creating a historical-sociological-economic context for insults

Participants will get an insight to this unusual field and can learn how to handle this area while learning a new language. They can more easily know when to take an insult with humour and how to avoid trouble.

Note: This lecture will contain offensive language and words with adult content. They cannot be avoided or "beamed out", as they are essential for the content of the lecture. Individuals that feel offended by such expressions and words should not attend this lecture.

Aleksandar Medjedovic, Marta Melnyk

See Marta Melnyk's bio description on page 54.

“Douze Points for Polyglots”: How Languages make Eurovision Song Contest songs win or fail (with Marta Melnyk)

English, Friday, 12:00–13:00, Esperanto room

After the Polyglot Gathering in Bratislava, the second largest gathering of Polyglots is the Eurovision Song Contest (also known as the “Grand Prix Eurovision de la Chanson”) – held each year in a different country. Since its first contest in the 50-ties, the main characteristic of the contest has been that each country needs to sing in its own language. This made it a fun festival of nations and cultures, often not fun for some “unattractive” languages who constantly scored “zero points” (who the hell wants to listen to songs in Finnish or Slovak). The language rule was lifted in the late nineties, putting language choices even more in the spotlight – very often, the choice of language or mix of words determines the winner. The contest remains each year a delicacy for Polyglots.

The workshop will feature a dozen songs from the last 63 years. We will listen to those songs and then sing them all together in the workshop – developing a feeling of why that song has received the “12 points” or maybe “0 points”. We will learn and show why and how the language has influenced that song and what linguistic advantages or maybe mistakes could be taken from that. We will see how rare languages have made winners and how common languages turned into the worst performances, or vice versa. Small reflections on cultures and habits will be done through the singing and viewing of the songs – why not learn about Moldova from a folk song from 2009 or about Portuguese passion from their win in 2017.

Alexander Mynzak



Alexander Mynzak is a polyglot, PhD in Linguistics, a translator and a teacher from Ukraine. Previously Alexander has been teaching and lecturing at the university level and abroad. Now he successfully runs a language school with more than 100 students in his home town. What is special about this school is that Alex is a single teacher and manager there. In his teaching he places great emphasis on motivating the students and gamification of learning.

Start your own language school and teach like a polyglot

Multilingual, Friday, 12:00–13:00, Assimil room

Polyglots, without doubt, can make the best language teachers. If a student wants to pick up a new language, polyglot-teachers may be the most helpful, since they have done this marathon not only once, but multiple times. So they know how to prepare for it, how to maintain a leisurely pace, when to have a respite and what's more, they know how to not get off the track. In this respect, polyglots outweigh the traditional mono or bilingual teachers. A language enthusiast brings real learner's experience to the educational process. What he or she can do with it is transform it into something bigger – his or her own language school. This type of school will be unique in its kind, since it will not be based on some franchise or traditionally accepted teaching methods, but on the polyglot's synthesis of his/her ideas and beliefs. The talk will primarily focus on

the principles of building a single-teacher school: technical, methodological, financial and management issues. It is for polyglots interested in education and for those who are thinking about a teaching career.

Learning and teaching languages through board games

Multilingual, Thursday, 17:00–18:00, Assimil room

Technological revolution has penetrated almost all the spheres of our daily life. Everything, for the better or worse, is being replaced with digital alternatives. However one field of activity can be hardly substituted and that is board gaming. This is so because there is no real alternative for face-to-face interaction. What if we use this medium of communication to cultivate certain language skills. There are more than 90,000 board games, so many of them can be put to good use. When we come to think about board games and languages, the game of Scrabble immediately comes to our mind. But this is not the only game of its kind. There are dozens of word games using the same or different game mechanics. In addition, there are association games which take word games to a more sophisticated level. For the more advanced learners the secret role games can be an asset immersing you into an engaging world role play. Over the years, board gamers have developed a strong community which provides you with a nice chance for socializing.

Alisa Panayeva



Born in Ukraine, she moves to Italy at the age of 17. A polyglot by chance, after a year of self-learning decides to study 3 foreign languages at the high school (Italian is the 4th), later at University accept the Chinese challenge. Now 7 languages and 14 years after is the owner of the translation agency Mawka languages, where unites passion and work.

Corso base di danza del ventre

Italian, Saturday, 12:00–13:00, Esperanto room

Impareremo le basi della danza orientale.

Потерянные буквы кириллицы

Russian, Saturday, 15:00–16:00, Assimil room

33 буквы кириллицы — настоящий кошмар для изучающих русский язык, а если я вам скажу, что вначале их было 49? Узнайте об этой и других тайнах древней кириллицы!

Come lingua riflette le antiche credenze popolari e le moderne scoperte scientifiche sul corpo umano

Italian, Sunday, 11:00–12:00, Assimil room

I detti popolari non sono solamente parole prese a caso, ma portano dentro una profonda conoscenza dell'essere umano su come le emozioni influiscono su di esso. “Hai avuto fegato”, “Ho il cuore a pezzi” perché gli antichi associavano determinate emozioni con certi organi? Scopriamolo insieme!

Alisa Zingerman



Alisa is a language-learner and a language teacher, most interested in creating something new that wasn't there before – be it personal, like learning a new language, or public, such as creating a course or publishing a book.

Lived in Russia, Israel and Germany (so far), if not to count long stays in the friendly Bulgaria. Possesses (or is possessed by) a vast variety of interests ranging from animation to neuroscience, besides the most long-lasting passion that unites us all here – languages.

Hates phone calls and thinks that reading is the best meditation.

Hebrew: Story of the Sleeping Beauty

English, Sunday, 12:00–13:00, Multilingual Speakers room

Finally, after 3 years' break, the Hebrew workshop is back to PG! And I have so much to tell you in these 45 minutes – the time will fly! (Like in a Jerusalem bus that whooshes from a station and you have to grasp tight to stay standing – have you had this experience? No? Well, if not – it's high time you learn some Hebrew, visit Israel, and get yourself on a bus – the perfect place to practice, by the way! :))

Now, I know you all may have different reasons for visiting this workshop – some consider starting to learn Hebrew, some have already started, some want to know how it works and “feels” in comparison to other languages, etc., etc. How can one possibly unite all these in one workshop? Well, I'll try. :) Here we will be reading Hebrew (several letters and the words we can make with them), speaking Hebrew (a mini hands-on practice of combining words into sentences), talking about Hebrew (discuss a birds' eye overview of the grammar of the language), and singing in Hebrew (sing-along texts provided)!

Plus, the specials – you'll be leaving the workshop with two handouts:

Tim Ferris-like breakdown of the language – 13 parallel Hebrew-English sentences that demonstrate how the Hebrew grammar functions.

30-page brochure (digital, of course) with links to the best Hebrew-learning resources I could discover, meticulously organized by language-learning level.

I hope that this workshop will give you what you've been looking for, or at least will help you know where to look for it. :))

*If you can't make it to the workshop but you do want the handouts – write to me (alisazingerman@gmail.com), or catch me at the venue – and I'll just send them to you! ;)

Anastasiia Martynenko



Graduate of Moscow State University (2015); Interpreter; Certified teacher of Russian and Czech as foreign languages; Author of coursebooks *Czech without tutor* (Moscow, 2018) and *Practical Czech Course* (Moscow, 2019) for Russian speakers; Russian, English, Czech, Serbian, Slovak, Portuguese and Italian speaker and learner.

Anastasiia likes travelling and is excited about new language learning methods.

Сторителлинг: как истории помогают нам учиться

Russian, Friday, 10:00–11:00, Vortoj room

Мы постоянно рассказываем истории, даже не задумываясь об этом. Истории эти самые разные: как у нас дела, как мы съездили в Италию или чем будем заниматься через неделю. И это отличный способ изучения иностранных языков: с помощью сочинения и рассказывания можно не только легко и интересно отрабатывать грамматические конструкции и учить новые слова, но и заставить себя думать на иностранном языке! На мастер-классе я расскажу о своём опыте сторителлинга на занятиях и разных схемах построения сюжета, а потом мы сочиним собственную, ни на что не похожую историю.

André Müller



Originally from Germany, André is a PhD student of linguistics at the University of Zurich, where he explores languages of Southeast Asia, especially Myanmar. He is also an expert on writing systems of the world, and a Klingon teacher in Switzerland.

So you want to learn a minority language with very little resources? No problem!

English, Thursday, 17:00–18:00, E@I room

I often hear people complain about the lack of resources for the languages they want to learn, usually for smaller, minority languages like Basque, Hawaiian, Xhosa, Mapudungun, Ainu, or even Klingon. In my opinion there are plenty of resources, they're just not *Teach Yourself X* and you don't get them at your local bookstore. I will show you methods to find useful resources for minority language and eventually create your own tools. Can you imagine it is even possible to learn a language completely without any written sources? I'll show you!

From Hieroglyphs to Emoji: una breve historio des langues visuelles (with Cesco Reale)

See description on page 30.

Anja Spilker



Born and raised in Germany, Anja from Alemania left her home country 10 years ago to work, live and study in various countries. She is the founder and CEO of ZALOA Languages, a language institute that works with native speakers from all over the world. The headquarters are based in Mexico where Anja lives since 2014. After having tested the efficiency of lang learning combined with fitness workouts, in 2018 Anja launched together with her team the YouTube channel burn&learn that shows how to practice German vocabulary whilst doing physical exercises.

How physical activity increases your language learning success

English, Sunday, 12:00–13:00, Amikumu room

Do you either like to work out or would you like to become more active in the future? Well, if the answer is yes, then I have great news for you: whatever kind of physical

activity you are doing, it could also help you to learn or improve a language! In this talk, we will see the results of different studies, discuss how and why physical activity increases your language learning success and look at different ways how to put those strategies into practice!

Arijit Kole, Timothy McKeon



Arijit Kole is a language enthusiast and a IT-Engineer by profession based in Munich, Germany. Arijit is intrigued by new sounds and stops by unknown people on the street to listen to their conversations whenever he hears unknown sounds and tries to figure out the language, sometimes ending up having a coffee with the strangers and making new friends.



Timothy McKeon is a translator and Doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Based in Berlin, he spends his time relishing in and writing about the multitude of languages spoken around the world.

Learning to write the Bengali script through comics

English, Friday, 11:00–13:00, Multilingual Speakers room

The Bengali script is an abugida used to write Bengali, Assamese and other languages in the region of Bengal. It is the fifth most widely used writing system in the world, and is one of many Brahmic scripts such as Devanagari and the Tibetan script. In this workshop we will look closely at how the script functions, teach participants how to write basic words and help everyone to create their own comic strip in Bengali.

Bea Laszlo



Bea is originally from Hungary. She lived/studied/worked/volunteered/housesat almost half of her life abroad (in Spain, Holland, Germany, Greece, Mexico, Ecuador, France, Thailand and Bali). She first moved abroad when I was 17. Since then her life has been about: Travelling. Observing. Experiencing. Adventures. Different cultures. Languages. People. Stories. Connections. Extremes. Balance. Enjoying the ride. Open-mind. Tolerance. Optimism. Never. Ending. Curiosity. Failing. Learning. Improving. Intellectually. Physically. Emotionally. Nowadays she works as an online

language teacher and travels the world, doing housesitting as often as she can.

Housesitting 4 in 1: travelling, pet cuddles, language practice & going local

English, Thursday, 16:00–17:00, Multilingual Speakers room

Do you love travelling? Do you love pets? How about living a different life for a few days, weeks or even months? Maybe in a country you have never been to before? Or in a country whose language you would love to learn or practice more? Would you like to have new neighbours, a new living room, new habits, new books and DVDs? Maybe

cook different food in a new kitchen every day? Have some new furry friends who come for cuddles every day?

Imagine practicing the language of your choice in everyday situations for an extended period of time. Feeling like a local after a few days, having a whole nice house or flat all for yourself. With neighbours and maybe even a postman you can practice with ;)

Does it sound attractive to you? Are you just asking yourself: “Sure, where do I have to sign?” right now? Would you like to know how it works? Come to the workshop and find out more!

Beth Desmond



Beth Desmond is a translator living in Brighton who has a particular interest in Britain’s LGBT history. Before becoming a translator, she briefly trained as a languages teacher at secondary level. She has also written articles on transgender rights for *The Social Review*.

Polari: the secret language of the gay community

English, Thursday, 12:00–13:00, Amikummu room

Until the decriminalisation of male homosexuality in 1967, Britain’s gay community was forced to hide in plain sight for fear of arrest and imprisonment. They adopted a form of slang known as Polari, which was also common among actors, circus performers and the criminal underworld. Influenced by various language including Italian, Romani, Yiddish and Cockney rhyming slang, this talk will introduce some common Polari words and talk about their origin, as well as discussing Polari in popular culture and its influence on modern-day English.

Brian Loo Soon Hua



Brian is a life-long language learner who speaks eight languages fluently and is currently working on improving his competence in a few more, including a couple of highly endangered ones. He is a translator and social media manager by day and a writer of science fiction and fantasy by night. He might even be developing a conlang or two.

From فنجان to pinggan, from 茶 to arbata: Loanwords and the history of the world

English, Thursday, 17:00–18:00, Amikummu room

Did you know that the word for “tea” in almost every language in the world comes from the Chinese 茶? Or that practically the same word for “table” is used from Portugal to Turkey to Indonesia? Or that all European languages have borrowed their words for “rice” from India? The borrowing of words from one culture to another has existed for as long as humans have had language, providing us with an insight into the history of migration, trade and conquest around the world. This talk will focus on the history of words with common origins in various related and unrelated languages. Don’t be surprised that your favourite Turkish dumpling might have a long-lost cousin in Korea, or that the English “letter” might have a Persian relative by way of Greece.

Preserving indigenous languages: maintaining cultural diversity in an increasingly uniform world

English, Thursday, 15:00–16:00, E@I room

Languages are repositories for a people's identity, traditions, history and collective memories. Yet every day, more and more languages disappear at an alarming rate, becoming replaced by what are perceived to be more politically, socially and economically powerful languages. 2019 has been declared The Year of Indigenous Languages by the United Nations to raise awareness of the importance of preserving, revitalising and promoting indigenous languages around the world. But what can we do?

This talk will provide an overview of the current state of some of the indigenous language communities in Asia, Europe, Africa, the Americas and Oceania. We will also discuss the role the polyglot community can play in preserving, promoting and revitalising these languages.

Brian Loo Soon Hua, Nat Dinham



Nat Dinham is Languages Director at uTalk and has worked with over 600 language specialists to build courses in 140+ languages from all around the world. As well as working with many mainstream languages, she's been privileged to liaise with a number of minority and endangered language groups, including Southern Sami, Greenlandic and Irish.

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Has English become the 21st century's linguistic bully?

English, Friday, 16:00–17:00, E@I room

In the 21st century, English is everywhere. How do different languages respond to the pressures exerted by a dominant language such as English, above all in terms of vocabulary? We will combine our experience of studying and working with languages – including a number of indigenous and endangered ones from Europe, North America and Oceania – with an analysis of translations into 150 languages from the uTalk app corpus to consider which languages are most vulnerable and most resistant to English loan words. We will also compare and contrast the areas of a language that easily lend themselves to borrowings. However, there are also languages which buck the trend and we'll look at the creative new lexicons of these languages and discuss the reasons behind their self-preservation, whether social, syntactic or grammatical. Finally, we'll also look at what smaller languages are doing to resist the influence of English and other dominant languages and how successful this is. Get ready for discussions on everything from numbering systems to computers, aeroplanes and jellyfish!

Caeyric Amnon



My daily routine: Live an (almost) sugar free life and do intermittent fasting every day for at least 17 hours and sometimes more. It is important for me to read at least 2 hours a day, study every single day and learn new things all the time. That said, on a special occasion like the Polyglot Gathering I still will dine with you and enjoy your presence. I am already thankful for everything I will learn from you. Currently I am writing a book with the title: *Thanks for kidnapping me*. It is about my personal experience where the big message is, that you can become the beautiful person that you are meant to be.

I prepare my YouTube channel where I want to share content and entertain: Language shining – Love Language learning show. I take my project about my experiences and learnings, as a man in a dress to the next level, sharing positivity and surprising insights. I am fluent in Walliseritsch, Luxemburgish, Russian, Dutch, Egyptian Arabic and some other languages.

Learn Hungarian with Caeyrica

Multilingual, Sunday, 12:00–13:00, Esperanto room

Enjoy a delightful moment together. Learn Hungarian with Caeyrica, it will delight you! Introduction and conclusion will be in English, summary as well. In between I will adapt to the languages spoken by the audience. Be ready to step out of your comfort zone as the Hungarian language learning part will be only in Hungarian. But don't worry. You'll understand me. I will guide you and by means of invisible tools we'll speak Hungarian: It's a kind of magic! Last but not least and I promise you: We'll shine like stars. Let's dance, sing and share our passion and love for language learning and learning in general. You will learn a beautiful life changing, romantic song. You'll be able to sing it in Hungarian with me. I will bring the lyrics with me and publish them in the FB group. My promise: what you will learn in this mixed workshop and talk, that is two in one, will boost your language learning skills and increase your overall success in all fields of your life. Vive les transferable skills! Can't wait to meet you all.

Carolien Caspers



Carolien is from the Netherlands, grew up in Limburg with the local dialect as her mother tongue. She developed her enthusiasm for languages only a couple of years ago, while attending the Polyglot Gathering 2015 in Berlin. During her studies in Biology and Transnational Water Management she became passionately worried for the planet and fellow earthlings. Surprisingly she found many similarities in both her language- and sustainability journey. The insights she gained from both interests complement one another. She writes in her blog about these insights and other experiences and now is a certified “Climate Coach” and lecturer on “The Hidden Impact.”

Samen op weg naar een Ecopositief leven

Dutch, Friday, 15:00–16:00, Esperanto room

Deze workshop is voor iedereen die nieuwsgierig of begaan is met het klimaat en/of milieu. In een korte presentatie leg ik de “verborgen impact” uit en wat duurzaamheid betekent. Als westerse consument hebben we veel meer impact dan we denken, dus maakt elke verbetering ook meer verschil. Na deze inleiding gaan we aan de slag met het bekijken van je persoonlijke verborgen impact. Hierbij gaan we ook brainstormen hoe je de opgedane inzichten daadwerkelijk toe kunt passen in je dagelijks leven, om stappen te zetten naar een eco-positief leven.

Cesco Reale, André Müller



Cesco Reale, communicator about science, languages and games, speaks over 10 languages and holds the IPA certificate in phonetics. He is UN representative for the World Esperanto Association and the creator of Limbas, a language seminar in Italy.

See André Müller’s bio on page 25.

From Hieroglyphs to Emoji: una breve historio des langues visuelles

Multilingual, Thursday, 15:00–16:00, Assimil room

Which are les traits communs inter Hieroglifoj, glifi Maya e caracteres chineses?

Are Emoji und icons bringing us back à l’origine de la sistemoj de escritura?

Sono un’involuzione que nos hace mas estúpidos or an evoluo that enrichtit notre komunikation? What is missing en la Emoji?

Cháira Züger



Chaira Züger’s passion for (strange) words started early. And early started her passion for learning (strange) languages. After 25 years spent observing similarities and differences between languages and teaching several languages to herself and to others, she has decided to show the world how it is possible to add a spoonful of sugar to the way we learn languages, even to such a tough language like Swiss German. It is no coincidence that her name sounds like the German word for sugar, Zucker. Meet her and find out why!

Como manter a fluência em mais que 5 idiomas?

Portuguese, Saturday, 15:00–17:00, Esperanto room

Depois dos anos passados a conseguir um bom* nível em 7 idiomas, a Cháira percebeu que sem ninguém para falar francês, ela estava começando a esquecer palavras neste idioma, e começou a se perguntar: Será que existe um outro jeito de manter a fluência em todos os meus idiomas? Para encontrar uma resposta a esta pergunta, ela resolveu viajar, passando por países onde se falassem os 7 idiomas. Será que ela encontrou uma solução? Deixem-se surpreender neste workshop interativo.

*a Cháira ensina a sua língua materna, o italiano, e três outros idiomas, já trabalhou como redatora em alemão e francês e traduz para o italiano e o português.

Christophe Silvestre



Christophe Silvestre is a polyglot speaking fluently 7 languages (French as mother tongue, English, Arabic, Spanish, Italian, Portuguese, German). His love for scripts pushed him to present the UNESCO a project for the Renaissance of Samaritan Culture.

From the talks of previous polyglot conference he realized that he was doing everything wrong (writing down all unknown words. Spending all his time on the same boring language book) but love for languages made him persevere. Since January 2019 he is applying tips given by Polyglots and is learning much more faster, side by side, Hebrew, Turkish and Farsi.

Le mystère des alphabets

French, Sunday, 15:00–16:00, Vortoj room

Partie 1: Du premier alphabet créé par l'homme aux alphabets actuels.

Un seul et unique alphabet a donné naissance à la quasi-totalité des alphabets utilisés sur la planète. Une vue globale du « pourquoi et comment » du passage des idéogrammes aux alphabets vous aidera à apprécier encore plus la langue que vous apprenez. Des astuces vous seront données pour mémoriser les nouveaux alphabets très rapidement.

Partie 2: Premier alphabet et hébreu biblique: divergences entre Bible et archéologie.

La religion dit que Moïse a reçu les 10 commandements en écriture hébraïque vers 1500 av. JC. Selon l'archéologie, les premiers scripts utilisant des alphabets sur des tablettes ou des pierres datent de 1300-1200 av. JC. Voyons si quelques graffitis trouvés au Sinai pourraient faire le lien entre archéologie et religion!

Daniel Mishkin



I am a 41 year old software developer who likes both computer and human languages. I started my polyglot career a few years ago and it has been nothing but fun so far...

Eine kurze Geschichte der russischen Etymologie

German, Sunday, 16:00–17:00, Assimil room

Russisch ist eine Sprache, die viele Wörter aus anderen Sprachen übernommen hat. Zum Beispiel wird das russische Wort für „im Opal“ (в опале) völlig anders verwendet als man es vermuten könnte. Kurz gesagt es bedeutet, „in Ungnade zu geraten“, in der Regel politisch, aber manchmal im übertragenen

Sinn. Aber woher kommt diese und viele andere seltsamen Phrasen im Russischen? In diesem Vortrag wollen wir einen kurzweiligen Ausflug in die Welt der russischen Etymologie unternehmen, die wahrscheinlich sogar manchen Muttersprachler überraschen wird.

Danilo Belo Daniel



Danilo is the founder of the Polyglot Club in Maceio, Brazil. Since 2015 Polyglot Meetings have been held. Danilo is also a photographer and a traveler.

Como iniciar um Encontro Poliglota (bem sucedido!) em sua cidade

Portuguese, Thursday, 10:00–11:00, Vortoj room

No workshop “Como iniciar um Encontro Poliglota (bem sucedido!) em sua cidade” vou falar, baseado em minha experiência como fundador do Clube Poliglota Maceió – Brasil, sobre os primeiros passos: chamar as pessoas, escolher local, escolher dia e horário das reuniões, criar uma identidade visual. Como utilizar as redes sociais (Facebook, Instagram, Meetup, Couchsurfing) e criar material de qualidade para divulgar nestas redes utilizando apps simples e gratuitos (Canva, Pic Collage). Uso de grupos do Whatsapp e Telegram para manter contato com os participantes, além de usar grupos diferentes para idiomas específicos, para que os membros possam praticar idiomas que estão aprendendo fora das reuniões presenciais. Como gerar interesse das pessoas em ajudar na organização. Uma pessoa sozinha na organização pode não ser bom, pois cria uma dependência de um único indivíduo, além de transmitir a ideia de que existe um “dono” do clube poliglota local. Para isso devemos criar a ideia de que o clube poliglota local é de todos e que não tem fins lucrativos. Todas as reuniões recorrentes deverão ser gratuitas. Vamos falar também quantas reuniões por mês / semana são necessárias, dependendo da cidade.

Dave Prine



Dave Prine became an official, academic linguist in May 2019, but he has long been a language enthusiast and an advocate for endangered languages. He has given talks on Tunica and K'iche', worked with several minority languages, and spent last summer interning with the National Endowment for the Humanities on their Documenting Endangered Languages database. He loves spreading the word about all languages wherever he can, such as The Lollygagging Podcast, his blog Polyglots Anonymous, and linguistic conferences and polyglot events. He is currently studying indigenous languages and looking to work further with any or all of them.

Hey, polyglots! Endangered languages need your help!

English, Thursday, 16:00–17:00, E@I room

Most polyglots know that the world's languages are dwindling. Half of the 7,000 languages spoken today are predicted to disappear by the end of the century. But linguists are working to reverse this trend, and the concept of language revitalization has become more widespread, garnering increasing support from academia, government funding agencies, and the general public. With 2019 being the International Year of Indigenous Languages, now is the time to get as many people involved as possible. And what better

group to involve than polyglots?

In this talk, you'll learn about the current linguistic landscape, the language documenting process, and some of the many efforts working to keep languages alive. But there's more: you'll learn about how you can use your skills as a language enthusiast to get involved. A good ear, great teaching skills, an understanding of linguistic patterns, software competence, or simply a desire to learn minority languages all contribute to the cause and connect you with linguists, teachers, and programmers around the world. Come learn how to use your love of languages to help maintain language diversity and find an outlet for your linguistic abilities (and maybe even get a job)!

David Hart



David is from Scotland, where he works at an office job that has nothing to do with languages, and in his spare time he likes to go to folk music and dance related events. His strongest second language is Portuguese, and he is currently learning Bulgarian in preparation for a music festival next year.

Dance around Europe (and beyond?)

English, Friday, 10:00–12:00, Esperanto room

An introduction to some traditional dances from Scotland, France/Brittany, Sweden and Bulgaria. There will be Scottish ceilidh dances (energetic couple dances, and set dances where you are tracing complicated patterns on the floor), balfolk and Scandinavian dances (mostly more mellow couple dances where you are improvising around a set of basic steps), and hopefully time for some Bulgarian dance (line dances involving some extremely irregular time signatures). Only saying “Europe” because that is what I know, but if any other participants want to share some other dance tradition, please be in touch and hopefully we can arrange something together. Please bring soft shoes.

Davide Bozzo



Davide Bozzo is a teacher of Italian as second language and director of Cinque Terre Summer School, organised by Dante Alighieri Society. He taught Italian language and culture at the University for Foreigners of Perugia, University of Florence and McGill University. He received a PhD in Philosophy at the University of Pisa and a Master's Degree in Teaching Italian as L2 at the University of Padua, with an internship at Boston University and University College Dublin. In addition to language education, he is studying Ligurian dialectology and he writes lyrics for the folk band of

Grandi & fanti, winner of the Ligurian language Song Festival.

Il paese poliglotta: viaggio attraverso la straordinaria (e spesso misconosciuta) diversità linguistica dell'Italia

Italian, Sunday, 12:00–13:00, Assimil room

Tra i tanti stereotipi che riguardano l'Italia vi è anche quello della presunta omogeneità linguistica del paese. Niente di più lontano dal vero: la penisola, dalle Alpi al Mediterraneo, presenta un'incredibile ricchezza di idiomi, quasi sempre ignorata dai suoi stessi abitanti. Tra di essi, oltre ai cosiddetti dialetti – in realtà vere e proprie lingue romanze

o neolatine – e alle minoranze linguistiche ufficialmente riconosciute, spiccano interessanti casi di isole linguistiche – come quelle occitane, cimbre, catalane e greche – che con la loro presenza consentono di compiere un affascinante viaggio non solo nella spazio ma anche nel tempo. Un dato, in particolare, aiuta a comprendere la complessità linguistica del paese: quando l'Italia è nata, nel 1861, solo circa il 2,5% della popolazione parlava la lingua di Dante come madrelingua e ancora oggi gli italiani sono in maggioranza bilingui, spesso a loro stessa insaputa!

L'«ascolto autentico» delle canzoni: un modo rapido e divertente per imparare l'italiano!

Italian, Thursday, 16:00–18:00, Vortoj room

Uno dei più importanti principi della glottodidattica afferma che più piacevole è l'esperienza di apprendimento, più veloce e durevole sarà l'acquisizione linguistica. Che cosa può essere più divertente della musica per imparare una lingua? L'ascolto autentico delle canzoni mira a portare dentro la classe ciò che milioni di persone hanno fatto per anni – specialmente prima dell'avvento di Internet – ovunque nel mondo: provare a trascrivere i testi delle canzoni straniere preferite. L'ascolto è «autentico» perché non è guidato dall'insegnante attraverso compiti specifici – come il cloze o la scelta multipla – ma lascia gli apprendenti liberi di scrivere solo ciò che capiscono, prima individualmente, poi in coppia. Alla fine, lavorando in piccoli gruppi, l'attività si trasforma in una coinvolgente gara capace di aumentare la motivazione in modo significativo.

Dmitrij Hladký



Comparing eternal beginners with polyglots Dmitrij discovered that apart from the plain rationality the latter also use their full mind and heart to become good friends with a language. As a teacher, this inspires him to put emphasis on psychological aspects in the teaching process. His main tool is the concept of mindfulness which leads students to such an attitude towards themselves and the outer world that brings more independence, creativity, strong motivation and healthy self-confidence. Dmitrij's goal is to make language learning a hobby. In his free time, among other things, he himself learns languages and practises mindfulness on a regular basis.

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Cizí řeč a trapnost

Czech, Saturday, 10:00–12:00, Vortoj room

Všichni se občas cítíme trapně, když máme mluvit cizí řečí. Ale proč? Jak vůbec tato emoce přichází a jaké negativní důsledky přináší? Nebo snad má i nějaká pozitiva? Jak můžeme nasadit pocitu trapnosti pouta a přestat s ním bojovat? Zkusme spolu najít odpovědi na tyto otázky hravou formou v prožitkovém workshopu nabitém párovými i skupinovými aktivitami, experimentováním, diskuzí a cílenou praxí mindfulness (všímavosti).

Eduardo Teiga



Dr. Eduardo Teiga is a MD and European Board-certified Radiologist. Originally from Lisbon in Portugal, he pursued medical training in his beloved town of Barcelona and in Madrid, Spain. Furthermore, he has work experience in Luxembourg and is currently based in “*die schönste Stadt der Welt*” Hamburg, the Venice of northern Germany. This speaker is a member of HYPIA (International Association of Hyperpolyglots), where he serves as Director of Outreach. He is fluent in Portuguese (native), Spanish (DELE C2), Catalan (Nivell de Suficiència C1), English (IELTS C1), French (DALF C1) and German (ZD Goethe C1), conversational in Italian (CELI B1) and has a basic knowledge of Chinese (HSK 1) and Russian. Dr. Teiga truly believes in the power of languages to bring down boundaries and in fostering linguistic diversity in society. He identifies himself as a global-minded European with Iberian roots.

Ventajas cognitivas de los políglotas en el mercado laboral / Cognitive advantages of polyglots in the labor market

Spanish with subtitles in English and Portuguese, Friday, 11:00–12:00, Assimil room

«Somos lo que comemos, lo que sentimos, lo que pensamos y hacemos.»

¿Somos también lo que hablamos?

¡Únete a mi presentación y emprende un viaje de autodescubrimiento que puede cambiar tus perspectivas profesionales! Aprenderás cómo funciona el cerebro de un políglota y qué los diferencia. Comprenderás por qué formar un equipo multilingüe significa tener toda una gama de herramientas cognitivas con las que afrontar los retos de una empresa. Los políglotas piensan diferente, brindan soluciones innovadoras y aseguran una ventaja competitiva. Sea cual sea tu edad y profesión, aprender un nuevo idioma hará tu vida prosperar y garantizará tu éxito laboral.

“We are what we eat. We are what we do.”

Are we what we speak?!

Join my presentation and embark on a journey of self-discovery that will potentially change your future professional endeavors. Learn how the brain of a polyglot works and what sets them apart. Understand why forming a multilingual team is like having multiple cognitive assets in a company’s tool kit. Polyglots think differently, find innovative solutions and secure a competitive edge. Whatever your age and educational background, the overwhelming benefits of learning a foreign language makes it a sure-fire way to upgrade your life and future-proof your career success.

Edward Davidson



Ed is the Co-Founder, CEO, Managing Director, Creative Director and Editor in Chief of his very own Youtube channel: La Ferpection.

Life after language studies: The good the bad and the ugly

English, Sunday, 16:00–17:00, E@I room

I think it is fair to assume that everyone attending this gathering has a passion for languages...but does everybody have the opportunity to use their passion on a daily basis? In their working lives? or their personal lives? After I graduated from university with a language degree, I struggled for 3 years to try and find a job and a lifestyle that used my languages. My struggle led me from a taxi company in Barcelona, to a pizzeria in Brazil. From a bank in London, to a startup in Paris, with lots of other weird and wonderful, places, stories and lessons learned along the way. So if you are interested in finding a language job, getting a language lifestyle or maybe just hearing an exciting story or 2, I look forward to seeing you at my talk!

Ekaterina Lozina



She likes languages. She's started to learn lots of them, still somewhere there but doesn't give up. Also she likes yoga and believes we should train our body and our mind equally. Or at least try.

Ni ekzerco! / Let's exercise!

Multilingual, Sunday, 11:00–12:00, Esperanto room

Dum tiu prelego ni kune faros kelkajn utilajn ekzercojn kiuj certe helpas al vi ellerni eĉ pli da lingvoj. Temas pri fizikaj ekzercoj. Ĉiuj scias, ke homoj kiuj “laboras per cerbo” ne ĉiam atentis pri sano de sia korpo. Kaj krome estas konate, ke eĉ kelkaj facilaj ekzercoj sidante ĉe komputilo dum paŭzoj vere refreŝigas menson, deprenas doloron el muskoloj kaj helpas al tuta korpo akiri pli da oksigeno. Do, mi proponas fari paŭzon inter “sidigaj” prelegoj kaj lerni kelkajn ekzercojn, kiuj poste vi povos fari ĉe via laborloko.

During this talk, we will do together some useful exercises that will surely help you learn even more languages. I'm talking about physical exercises. Everyone knows that people who “work with their brains” often don't take care of their body's health. And it's also known that even a few easy exercises at your computer can really refresh the mind, remove pain from muscles and help the whole body get more oxygen. So, I propose to make a break between “sitting” lectures and to learn some exercises that you can do at your workplace.

Elisa Polese



Elisa is a professional language teacher and language enthusiast. She teaches Italian, German, English, Spanish, Russian, French, Dutch, Catalan, Portuguese, Greek, Hindi, Arabic and Esperanto (at different levels). She is specialised in multilingual teaching and helps students learn several languages at the same time and speak them from day one without mixing them up. She is a certified language examiner and holds two BAs in Translating and Interpreting,

Multilingual Speakers



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a MA in International Communication and a MA in Didactics. Elisa organises workshops where you can start speaking one or more languages from the very first moment and have your first conversation after a few minutes. She is also a language mentor and coach. Check out her books and videos on www.speakfromdayonewithelisa.com.

Speaking from day one: an interactive multilingual class

Italian, Spanish, French, German: Thursday, 15:00–16:00, Multilingual Speakers room

Russian, Greek, Hindi: Thursday, 15:00–16:00, Multilingual Speakers room

It., Span., Fr., Ger. (intermediate): Friday, 15:00–16:00, Multilingual Speakers room

Have you ever asked yourself whether learning more languages at the same time is possible? And what about start speaking them from day one without mixing them up? After this multilingual workshop you will be able to have short conversations in several languages. You will be able to switch from one language to another. This workshop is for beginners and absolute beginners on Thursday, for intermediate learners on Friday. The focus will be on conversation. It will be very interactive and fun so come along!

Elizaveta Kalugina



Elizaveta Kalugina is a Russian polyglot mum and raising a polyglot baby. Every day they speak up to 5 languages. There is an educational system which Elizaveta made up when her daughter Olga was born. At 2 years Olga speaks Russian and English native-like, French, German and Spanish very well. She also speaks some Chinese, Greek and Hungarian.

Tips for raising a multilingual child*Multilingual, Saturday, 15:00–16:00, Vortoj room*

I would like to share my experience of raising a multilingual child. My daughter is 2 years old. I teach her myself + we have some native teachers online. It is possible to teach a 2 year old online! She speaks Russian, English, French, Spanish and German. She speaks a bit and understands Chinese, Greek, Hungarian.

Ellen de Visser

Ellen de Visser is a Berlin-based entrepreneur from the Netherlands and has studied German and French in Berlin, Bristol and Prague. She speaks 7 languages through living in 6 countries and connecting with locals, and helps businesses do the same with her translation agency AccessEast. Besides running her company, Ellen is one of the head organisers of the Language Influencer Summit and enjoys public speaking. Last month she spoke at TEDxWolverhampton and TEDxPlovdiv and over the last years she spoke about entrepreneurship, languages and intercultural marketing at conferences around the world. From Silicon Valley to TEDx to the Polyglot Conference!

The perfect polyglot life: making a living out of languages*English, Saturday, 15:00–16:00, E@I room*

According to Gallup's World Poll in 2017, 85% of employees around the world dislike their job. While the Polyglot Gathering has a very diverse audience, something that unites us all is our love for languages. This session has the goal to explore the possibili-



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ties around implementing languages into your career and explaining the surprising way how your language, translation or literature degree can be a massive strength. I will tell you how I created my ventures related to languages and how I have been working with languages during the last four years. The Q&A session will be used to help you and give you some suggestions on how you can become part of the happier 15% as well!

Emmanuel Ternon



Dr. Emmanuel Ternon is a software engineer with a passion for East Asian languages (Chinese, Japanese and Korean) and for Chinese characters. His mission is to raise awareness about the fact that Chinese characters (especially in their traditional forms) are the key to efficiently learning multiple East Asian languages because they make it possible to write a large portion of the vocabularies of these languages the exact same way. By combining his software development skills with his knowledge of East Asian languages, Emmanuel wishes to create a variety of software tools useful for people learning or working with these languages.

CJKV Dict – a smart dictionary for polyglots learning Chinese, Japanese, Korean and/or Vietnamese

English, Sunday, 11:00–12:00, Amikumu room

If you are learning Chinese, Japanese, Korean and/or Vietnamese (the so-called CJKV languages) at the same time, you have probably noticed that a large number of words are shared among these languages. This is because these words come from Chinese and can hence all be written in Chinese characters.

Therefore, to learn these languages more efficiently, it is very helpful to check whether or not the same Chinese characters can be used in all four languages to express the same word. Sadly, it is sometimes difficult to do this because the CJKV languages were each subjected to script reforms during the 20th century. As a result of these reforms, Chinese and Japanese are now written using a simplified form of the original, traditional Chinese characters, while Korean and Vietnamese are now completely written phonetically, without Chinese characters.

To solve this problem, I developed a smart dictionary called CJKV Dict (available online at CJKV-Dict.com), which is able to check whether or not the same Chinese characters are used in all CJKV languages to write the same word, by automatically converting words written phonetically or in simplified Chinese characters to traditional Chinese characters.

Eriko Tamura



She has been always enthusiastic about learning languages. She started her career by teaching physics and mathematics for +18 students, then worked as a patent attorney/translator for 7+ years. After that, she started her own business, developed learning materials that help people learn English.

She is a native Japanese speaker, and speaks English, Dutch and some Korean, Mandarin and Arabic. She has a BA in physics and MSc in astrophysics.

How to order in a Japanese restaurant

Multilingual, Thursday, 11:00–12:00, Vortoj room

Food in Japan is delicious. If you go to Japan, Traditional Japanese food is a must try. Introduction to useful Japanese phrases you should know in a restaurant and names of Japanese food other than sushi.

Federico Gobbo



Federico Gobbo is full professor at the University of Amsterdam on the special Chair of Interlinguistics and Esperanto. Among his research interests, there are: language policy, multilingualism and mobility in the EU, language representation and identity, invented languages, computational argumentation.

Multilingualism in the EU after Brexit: challenges and opportunities

Multilingual, Friday, 15:00–16:00, Assimil room

Multilingualism has always been a constitutive characteristic of Europe, and it is the pillar of the EU motto “United in diversity”, one of the four official EU symbols. However, paraphrasing Orwell, even if all EU official languages are equal but some are more equal than others. In particular, English, along with French and, in some measure, German, are more used within the EU institutions. In the early 1950s, the language policy regime of the emerging “Continental community”, ancestor of the EU, was hotly debated before the Council Regulation No 1 of 1958. Interestingly, similar alternatives emerged in the recent public consultation about multilingualism in the EU institutions set up by the European Ombudsman (report, Feb 2019). The talk speculates on a possible “Brexit effect” — whatever it will happen or not — on the resurgence of alternatives to a passive acceptance of the *de facto* preminence of English (followed by German and French), investigating how much such alternatives are feasible in realistic terms, given the current legal asset of EU.

Gabriel Gelman



Gabriel Gelman is a polyglot from Germany who speaks six languages. He is the founder of the German language learning platform Sprachheld.de. In the past few years Sprachheld has become one of the go to websites about anything related to language learning on the German market. Gabriel regularly interviews language experts, polyglots, professors and researchers about language learning and foreign languages.

Kann man eine Fremdsprache auch im höheren Alter noch lernen?

German, Thursday, 11:00–12:00, Assimil room

Kann man nur als Kind eine Fremdsprache wirklich erfolgreich lernen? Haben es Erwachsene tatsächlich so viel schwerer? Und ist es als Senior sogar schier unmöglich erfolgreich eine Fremdsprache zu erlernen? Gabriel Gelman hat sich auf den Weg begeben dies herauszufinden. Denn auf der einen Seite gibt es Polyglotte, die mit jedem Jahr besser und schneller Sprachen lernen, selbst im hohen Alter. Auf der anderen Seite stehen Sprachlerner, die es in jüngeren Jahren nicht geschafft haben und beim Erlernen der Fremdsprache im hohen Alter noch weniger Erfolge verzeichnen. Im zweiten Teil der Präsentation gibt

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es Ratschläge und Tipps, wie man auch im hohen Alter eine Fremdsprache erfolgreich lernen kann und sogar das eigene Alter zu seinem Vorteil nutzen kann. Da Gabriel Gelman zu diesem Thema nicht aus persönlicher Erfahrung aufgrund seines Alters sprechen kann, bezieht er sich hier auf die Erkenntnisse aus seiner Zusammenarbeit mit Senioren und Menschen höheren Alters, die er dabei unterstützt eine Fremdsprache zu lernen, sowie Interviews mit anderen Sprachexperten zu diesem Thema.

Gareth Popkins



Gareth Popkins has a doctorate in Russian history from the University of Oxford and taught the subject in Welsh at the University of Aberystwyth. He then trained as a lawyer and worked for several years in the Moscow office of an international law firm. A London-based language enthusiast, teacher and mentor, his “best” foreign languages are Russian, Welsh, German and French and he has studied several others including Basque and, now, Japanese. He blogs at Howtogetfluent.com and vlogs on YouTube.

Four fluency principles

There's not one method to learn a language. Some approaches will appeal to you more than others. Memory and learning processes may be the same for all (forget “learning styles”) but how we engage will depend on our aptitudes, personalities, interests and circumstances. For all the variety on the surface, though, there are underlying similarities to every language learning success story. In this talk, I'll take a step back to identify

English, Saturday, 11:00–12:00, E@I room

four principles that you can apply to decide what's going to work for you. There will then be specific, practical suggestions to help ensure that we all keep on track as effectively as possible, wherever – and whoever – we are.

Gaston Dorren



Gaston Dorren is a writer and public speaker specialising in linguistics. He has published books in English about the languages of Europe (Lingo, 2014) and about the 20 languages most widely spoken in today's world (Babel, 2018). Both have been, or are being, widely translated. He has also written, in his native Dutch, about languages spoken in the Netherlands. "My aim is to convey reliable linguistic knowledge in such a way that the reader feels both entertained and inspired to find out even more for themselves", he says.

Why different languages have different scripts

English, Thursday, 11:00–12:00, E@I room

The Roman alphabet you are now reading has spread far and wide, but it's not universal. The world's 20 largest languages alone have no fewer than 10 scripts between them: alphabets some of them (Russian, Korean), but mostly not (Mandarin, Hindi, Arabic, Japanese). How has this diversity come about? The usual historical haphazardness is part of the explanation, but Gaston will show that there's more to it than just that.

Heidrun Tóth-Loesti



Heidrun Tóth-Loesti (or just Heidi) is a German living in Hungary. She teaches at school (German and tourism) and university (linguistics and translation), but more than teaching she loves learning, especially languages (of course). Apart from learning languages, she is a mother of three, likes classical music, and practices Taijiquan. This is her first Polyglot Gathering, but not her first experience of how inspiring an intercultural and multilingual community is.

Warum lernen Sprachenliebhaber besser Fremdsprachen?

German, Thursday, 10:00–11:00, Assimil room

Lernt man Fremdsprachen besser, wenn man sie als Hobby lernt? Ich denke ja, und ich möchte zwei Erkenntnisse aus der Wissenschaft dazu vorstellen. Der Konstruktivismus besagt, dass man nur das wirklich lernt, was man sich selbst erarbeitet und im Kopf mit vorhandenem Wissen verknüpft. Genau das machen wir alle, wenn wir – jeder mit seiner eigenen, persönlichen Lieblingsmethode – uns die Sprachen selbst aneignen und nicht darauf vertrauen, dass der Lehrer das schon für uns tut. Die andere Erkenntnis kommt aus der Hirnforschung. Gerald Hüther hat gezeigt, dass man nur das wirklich lernt, was man mit Freude lernt. Auch das machen wir alle, denn sonst wäre es ja nicht unser Hobby.

Your first taijiquan class (太極拳, Tai Chi)

Hungarian, Saturday, 10:00–12:00, Esperanto room

Hat évvel ezelőtt jártam először Taijiquan (tajcsi) edzésre. Rögtön beleszerettem ebbe a „táncos meditációba”. Azóta a Taijiquan elengedhetetlen része lett az életemnek, mindig új energiát, erőt, lelki nyugalmat ad. Az egészségi állapotom is javult. Most ezt az első



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edzésemet Veletek szeretném megismételni, egy kis betekintést szeretnék adni ebbe az ősi kínai harcművészetbe. Nem szükséges semmilyen előzetes képesség, csak olyan cipőt és ruhát vedd fel, amiben jól érzed magad, és ami nem akadályozza a mozgást.

Irina Terentieva



A language learner/educator from Russia. Currently teaches languages and public speaking at the Higher School of Economics, Moscow. Several years ago she took the first steps in learning Spanish to the sound of Spanish songs. During these years songs have always been an efficient tool for her in learning and teaching this language. At this gathering she would like to share one more time her love to one of the most melodious languages in the world!

El quest musical

Spanish, Thursday, 16:00–18:00, Esperanto room

¿A Usted le gustan aventuras,
Aprender Español y cantar?
¡A mí también!
¡Venga a mi quest musical
Para tener juntos este viaje emocional!
¿Por qué emocional?...
¡Lo sabrá allá!
¡Espero a todos!

Iris Senel

Iris is a Linguistic Designer and the founder of Greek Turkish Words.

During her studies, she held a year-long exhibition at the Wadham College of Oxford University and University of Yale. She has written an award-winning thesis in Braille writing system and English. Consequently, she designed a font called “NeonBraille” to facilitate language learning for sighted people. She has also served as the Visual Content Manager for the Polyglot Conference in Iceland. She currently learns and designs content for Sign Language schools in Athens. As a linguistic designer, Iris helps businesses build a strong web presence through design, interactive visuals and consultancy.

Design as a tool in language learning

English, Sunday, 12:00–13:00, E@I room

Do you know which type of a language learner are you? Are you an auditory or visual language learner? Most language learners are “visual learners”. Visual learners tend to use apps, books or online dictionaries. In our fast-changing world, even the news are more often conveyed digitally now. Naturally, the linguistic world is adapting to the ever-changing trends but who’s aware of it?

During this talk, the audience will learn about the history of language apps, how the interface of these apps changed within a time frame and why design is the strongest tool in language learning. Inevitably, the design of these apps are affecting your language learning process. How a language app is designed can lead you to learn a scoop of a subject proficiently or even give up on learning a certain language. During this talk, we will evaluate some leading apps in the linguistic sector and their designs.

Jadranka Bokan



Jadranka Bokan is a German language teacher for over a decade. She works in an IT firm over the day and at night she transforms in a super hero who helps her students learn one of the most difficult languages. She runs the website “German Language Workshop” since 2016 and she uses it as her super power. She holds MA in European Studies from Europeum, University of Regensburg and she was a grantee of the German government several times. She also worked for the Goethe Institut as a teacher.

Tricks and Tools for learning new words in a foreign language

English, Friday, 16:00–18:00, Multilingual Speakers room

The main purpose of this workshop is to make the process of learning new words more effective. During our 2 hours long “journey” I’ll provide you with some theoretical explanations and practical tips and tools. By employing them later you’ll be able to learn with joy, save your time and remember new words much longer.

This workshop consists of 8 theoretical parts that are followed by 8 exercises. Thus, you’ll be learning by doing. Our measurable goal during the workshop will be to acquire 8 new words in English (C2 level). Our starting point is an original text in English.

Ján Krajčík



Jan discovered the fascination by foreign languages only in the age of 50. He is native Slovak and graduated mathematician and professional IT guy. He enjoys self/pair/small group learning of English, German, Russian, French, Hungarian languages and dislikes classroom courses. He considers himself not to be a gifted language learner but that does not break him in his enthusiasm for the languages and designing the software tool for those alike :)

Let's learn with MediaBlockPlayer

English, Saturday, 11:00–12:00, Amikumum room

Media Block Player is new free software tool to practice with script/audio/translation media in any language and to share them. We will practice together in some of these languages: French, Hungarian, Russian, Italian, Slovak, German, Esperanto. The media are split into natural, easily repeatable blocks and fully in sync. The activities are like: first listening, pronunciation training and check, continual echoing, speaking check. The tool is primarily addressed for self-learners but may be used in groups as well.

We will also show how anyone can create his/her own media and share them with the language learners community using online library. The tool itself may be used both on- and off-line. Intended especially for beginners and intermediate learners.

Finally we will discuss how this tool might be enhanced in future (collaborators are welcome) and integrated with existing large libraries of language media, e.g. lingq.com. Shall we incorporate also other media types: video, pictures, phonetic transcription, audio translation – all in sync?

Play and share media with this tool (in development) at: <http://hipa.sk>.

Jared Gimbel



Jared Gimbel is a video game designer, translator, singer, musician, part-time synagogue cantor and language teacher of mixed Ashkenazi Jewish, Hungarian, Swedish and American heritage. After having been schooled in the United States, Israel, Sweden and Germany (and walking away from a religiously repressive environment) he fell in love with the Arctic region and the South Pacific and writes pieces about endangered languages and languages of Oceania on a weekly basis that have appeared in publications throughout the world. His first video game, *Kaverini: Nuuk Adventures*, a role-playing game set in contemporary Greenland, is scheduled for release in late 2019.

Inledning till niueanska: språket i världens minsta självstyrande stat

Swedish, Sunday, 16:00–17:00, Vortoj room

Niue är en territoriell besittning av Nya Zeeland med cirka 2000 invånare. Niue är en av världens största korallöar. Den ligger mitt i Stilla havet och öster om den internationella datumlinjen, men är extremt liten med en yta på 260 km².

Efter den här presentationen kommer ni att kunna ha en grundläggande niueansk konversation. Det är ett språk som talas i olika grad av nästan sju gånger så många personer utanför Niue som på Niue (mestadels i Nya Zeeland).

Ni kommer att lära er hur ni introducerar er själva, hur man formulerar meningar, hur

man kan ställa frågor av alla slag och förstå hur fungerar orsaksprefix faka-, som finns också hos niueanska språkets närmaste släktingar, såsom bl.a. tonganska.

Viktiga delarna av den niueanska kulturen, såsom mytologiska texter och några Bibelverser kommer att visas för att visa vad Niue verkligen är i dag, samt bilder av landskap, artefakter, historier och tips för potentiella turister och forskare.

Dessutom, sätt att använda och fortsätta att lära sig språket och andra polynesiska språk ska delas med er, samt tips om vad som är annorlunda med att lära sig språken från Oceanien jämfört med lärandeprocessen för bl.a. de europeiska språken.

הדור האחרון של קיריבטיש - די שפראך פון דעם לעצטען דור (Kiribatish: *Di Sprakh fun dem Letzten Dor*)

Yiddish, Friday, 17:00–18:00, Vortoj room

אן דאנק ידועות פון ים-שפיגל העכערונג, קיריבאס איז בארימט היינטצוטאג אז אן אינטערנאציאנאלע סימבאל פון זינגענדיקע אינדזל-מדינות. איין פון דער נידעריקסטע מדינות אויף דער וועלט, קיריבאס אויך האט א קולטור און שפראך וואס דאמינירט זינט קדמונים א גרויסע טייל פונעם פאציפישן אקעאן. עס איז די איינציקע לאנד אויף דער וועלט אחוץ פון פראנקרייך וואס ליגט אין אלע פיר האלבקיילעכער.

די קיריבאטישע שפראך רעדט מען געוויינטלעך זייער שנעל און אופנים צו לערנען די שפראך זענען זעלטן, אזוי אין דאזיקע פרעזענטירונג וועט איר לערנען וואס פאר א לאנד קיריבאס פאקטיש איז. איר וועט לערנען דער ארויסרעד פון דער קיריבאטישער שפראך און ווי אזוי מען קען רעדן א ביסל קיריבאטיש מיט קיריבאטישע פריינד (עס איז דא פילע קיריבאטיש-רעדנדיקע ניצערס אויף דער אינטערנעץ) און ווי אזוי מען קען באגריסן און פרעזענטירן זיך מיט א קליינע (רעדע פון זיך פאר א קיריבאטישן קהילה). (אזוי טוט מען ביי א באזוך אין קיריבאס געוויסע קולטורעלע מינהגים, למשל, אויסבויען פון שיפלעך און דער מאנעאבא-באגעגעניש, צוזאמען מיט דער מאדערנע זייט פון היינטיקן קיריבאס מיט הויכע טעכנא-מוזיק וועט מען רייך באשרייבן מיט קיריבאטישע ווערטער-רשימות. אופנים צו ווייטער לערנען די שפראך וועט געגעבן, אויך ענלעכקייטן פון דער קיריבאטישער שפראכס קרובים פון דער אנדערער שפראכן אין מיקראנעזיע.

A dank yedeyes fun yam-shpigl hekherung, Kiribas is barimt hayntzutog az an internatzyonale simbol fun zingendike indzl-medines. Eyn fun der niderikste medines af der velt, Kiribas oykh hot a kultur un sprach vos dominirt zint kadmonim a groyse teyl funem Patzifishn Okean. Es iz di eyntzike land af der velt, akhutz fun Frankraykh, vos ligt in ale fir halbkeylekher.

Di Kiribatische Sprach redt men geveyntlekh zeyer shnel un oyfanim tzu lernen di sprach zenen zeltn. Azoy in dozike presentirung vet ir lernen vos far a land Kiribas faktish iz. Ir vet lernen der aroysred fun der Kiribatischer Sprach un vi azoy men ken redn a bisl Kiribatish mit Kiribatische fraynt (es iz do file Kiribatish-redndike nitzers af der Internetz) un vi azoy men ken bagrisn un presentirn zikh mit kleyne rede fun zikh far a Kiribatishn kehile (azoy tut men ba a bazukh in Kiribas).

Gevise kulturene minhogim, lmoshl, oysboyn fun shiflekh un der Maneaba-bagegenish, tzusamen mit der moderne zayt fun hayntikn Kiribas, mit hoykhe tekhno-muzik, vet men raykh bashrabn mit Kiribatische verter-reshimes. Oyfanim tzu vayterlernen di sprach veln gegeben. Un oykh enlekhkeyt fun der Kiribatische sprachhns krovim fun der andere sprachn in Mikronesiye.

Jozef Reinvalt



Retired Slovak diplomat, member of the civic association “Seniors of Slovak Diplomacy”, board member of the European Esperanto Union. He is engaged in seeking equitable and effective solutions to language and cultural issues and problems in the European Union / Europe.

Vademecum of multidisciplinary project “Mobility and inclusion in multilingual Europe”

English, Saturday, 10:00–11:00, Amikumu room

He will present results of an important multidisciplinary project of the European Commission (2014 – 2018) “Mobility and inclusion in multilingual Europe” (MIME), led by Prof. François Grin from the University of Geneva, for support a mobility of citizens of the European Union. The project was attended by 16 countries, 22 universities / institutions that worked in 11 disciplines / work areas. He will also provide information about the document “Vademecum of MIME”, in which answers of experts were presented to 72 questions, asked by the European Commission.

Judith Meyer



Judith Meyer is a polyglot and author of language courses, including the *Script Hacking* series for learning foreign writing systems. Lately she has had a lot of opportunities to study Modern Greek due to working with former Greek Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis and his transnational party, the European Spring.

Learning the Greek alphabet – an introduction to the Script Hacking method

English, Sunday, 15:00–16:00, E@I room

This session is for two kinds of people: those who dream of a vacation in Greece and those who are curious about the newest method to learn a foreign writing system. I will demonstrate the method I developed, called Script Hacking, by teaching you to read Modern Greek in just 45 minutes using this method. “Give a man a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” Similarly, this session will not just give you a delicious little fish (the Greek alphabet) but also teach you how you can catch much bigger fish using the Script Hacking method.

Kamil Nguyen Van



Kamil is a mathematician who ended up as a natural and programming languages enthusiast when he was in his 20s. He lives in sunny Barcelona where he enjoys learning Chinese, longboarding and working as a software engineer.

Learning programming languages for polyglots – what, how and why

English, Friday, 10:00–11:00, Multilingual Speakers room

Polyglots love learning new languages (natural and artificial ones like Esperanto and Klingon). Why not learning programming languages then? In this

talk, I would like to show what are the advantages of learning programming languages and how the worlds of language learning (linguistics) and programming are intertwined with each other. More importantly, I would like to prove how much easier and more beneficial it is to learn programming languages when one is a polyglot.

Katie Harris



Katie Harris is the writer behind the Joy of Languages' blog. Her love affair with languages started when she realised she could learn them better by doing fun stuff – like going to the pub with native speakers and watching TV – instead of sitting in a classroom. Fascinated by the science behind how adults learn languages, she studied linguistics at Cambridge University and can get very boring about phonetics if you give her the chance.

How to learn a language by watching TV and films

English, Friday, 10:00–11:00, E@I room

Can you binge-watch your way to fluency? This talk gives tips on how to get the most out of TV and films for your language learning. We'll look at science-based answers to the following questions:

- When should I start watching TV and films?
- Should I use subtitles? If yes, which kind?
- What happens if I don't understand? Am I still learning?
- Why films can be tricky even for advanced learners (and what to do about it).

We'll also cover some practical tech tips, like:

- The best places to find foreign-language TV.
- How to slow down or skip back a few seconds so you can listen again.

Popcorn optional!

Kelvin Jackson



Kelvin is a linguist, software developer, and Esperantist originally from the United States, but currently living in Turku, Finland, while pursuing a Master's degree in Finno-Ugric linguistics. When not puzzling over the vowel system of Moksha or building websites, they also spend time creating languages, learning existing languages, making terrible jokes about linguistics, and enjoying all sorts of fantastical media.

Enkonduko al la mokŝa lingvo

Esperanto, Thursday, 15:00–16:00, Vortoj room

La mokŝa estas finn-ugra lingvo, kiun oni parolas en Mordvio (en la mezo de la eŭropa parto de Rusio). Kvankam la rilato inter la mokŝa kaj la finna aŭ hungara ne tuj evidentas al la malsperta okulo, ĝi videblas tre facile post iom da klarigado. La mokŝa enhavas ankaŭ kelkajn trajtojn, kiujn oni nur malofte vidas en la lingvoj de Eŭropo (plurpersona konkordo, postpozicioj, ktp.), kaj iomete malfacilas pri la elparolado, sed ne timu — ĝi lerneblas ankaŭ por vi!

En ĉi tiu sesio, ni lernos iom pri la fonetikaj kaj morfologiaj trajtoj kaj historio de la mokŝa, kaj ekzerciĝi en la parolado de kelkaj utilaj vortoj kaj frazoj. Шумбрагада!

Singing in Finno-Ugric languages

English, Saturday, 17:00–18:00, Multilingual Speakers room

Come sing songs in a couple of languages you may not have heard of before! We will go over the lyrics and melodies of songs in Erzya, Udmurt, and Karelian, familiarize ourselves with their translations, and then sing!

Although lyrics aren't always the best example of day-to-day language usage, music is a great tool for learning bits and pieces of a new language. All of the less well-known Finno-Ugric languages have rich musical traditions, which unfortunately are only rarely heard outside of Russia or the world of Finno-Ugric linguistics. So come learn some new music, and maybe fall in love with a language or two!

Lina Vasquez



Lina Vasquez is a Latvian-Australian Polyglot, Youtuber and Professional language teacher living in Berlin. Having been immersed in multiple languages from an early age, she continued to study them throughout University and now speaks a total of seven. As the creator of the brand “The Busy Linguist”, her goal is to inspire people and show them the true value and power learning a foreign language entails.

How changing the words we use can change our life

English, Saturday, 10:00–11:00, E@I room

If someone told you, you could become whatever you wanted to be, achieve anything you wanted to achieve simply by paying attention to the types of words and sentences flowing in and out of your mind, would you believe them? This talk will discuss the basis of Neurolinguistic Programming (NLP) and focus particularly on my own experiences and results from simply changing the words I use to describe myself, my emotions and my life and how others can apply this in their own lives.

Loïc Paulin



Born in Canada in 1992, Loïc's love for languages came from his work as a classical singer, being confronted to singing in various languages from very early on. He moved to Basel, Switzerland, in 2014 to pursue advanced studies in Early music at the Schola Cantorum Basiliensis. Since 2018 he is based in Paris and works as a freelance singer in various European countries.

La rhétorique en musique baroque: peindre le discours par le chant

French, Friday, 15:00–16:00, Vortoj room

Bien que mettre des textes en musique soit une pratique qui a toujours existé, on pense difficilement à une époque où le lien entre la parole et la musique était aussi intime qu'à l'époque baroque, et où l'art de la rhétorique musicale était autant mis en valeur. Nous explorerons ici un procédé de rhétorique appelé « figuralisme », et nous tenterons de montrer comment des compositeurs tels Monteverdi, Bach et Rameau s'y prenaient pour illustrer le texte par la musique.

Lýdia Machová



Lýdia is a language mentor who helps people learn languages by themselves, just like polyglots do. She's built a successful online business both in Slovakia and worldwide. She's spoken at several polyglot events as well as teacher and digital nomad conferences but the invitation to speak at TED still came as a huge surprise. Lýdia is currently living as a "part-time" digital nomad (partially at home in Slovakia, partially traveling :)) and usually learns a new language every two years, currently working on her 9th one.

My TED talk experience

English, Friday, 17:00–18:00, E@I room

What would you do if you were invited to give a 12-minute long TED talk in New York? You have one chance to share your best message with the world. And 2.5 weeks to prepare... If you do it well, millions of people will hear your message. If you mess up, you'll have blown a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity.

This is what Lýdia went through last year. If it was up to her right after delivering the talk, she wouldn't even let it be published. She felt it was a failure. Many things went wrong during the preparation and delivery. And yet, her talk has reached close to 4 million views in the first 4 months of being online and the numbers are growing. In this talk, Lýdia will share all the behind-the-scenes information on her talk, which, by the way, is hugely about the Polyglot Gathering! You may even glimpse a picture of yourself in one of the slides. ;-)

All you really need
to learn a language is

**fun,
effective methods,
system,
and patience.**

Lýdia Machová
www.language mentoring.com



Madeline Vadkerty



Madeline Vadkerty is an American researcher living in Bratislava who is using her Slovak language skills to study the Holocaust in Slovakia. Madeline spent several years conducting research at the US Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. She also interpreted French and Spanish at Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma, a nonprofit organization that provided psychological and social service assistance to asylum seekers who were persecuted for supporting democratic freedoms. Ms. Vadkerty seeks to use her foreign language skills to promote understanding and tolerance, human rights and democratic institutions.

Ľudia píšu Tisovi... o židovskej otázke

Slovak, Sunday, 11:00–13:00, Vortoj room

V rokoch 1939 až 1944 napísali ľudia vtedajšiemu prezidentovi slovenského štátu Jozefovi Tisovi tisíce listov, ktoré sa týkali slovenských Židov. Tieto listy dnes slúžia ako nemí svedkovia pohnutej doby nedávnych dejín Slovenska. Listy sú plné dramatického napätia, emócií a obsahujú prekvapujúce myšlienkové pochody a pocity. Sú nesmierne zaujímavé, lebo ponúkajú nezvyčajný pohľad na prežívanie a zmyšľanie ľudí počas holokaustu.

Prenasledovanie židovského obyvateľstva na Slovensku, ich následná deportácia a vraždenie patria dodnes k nedostatočne preskúmaným témam napriek tomu, že sú výborne zdokumentované. Teraz sú tieto listy staré a zažltnuté, ale v svojej hĺbke si zachovali ľudský charakter a hovoria o dobe, v ktorej vznikali a o tom, ako totalita menila spoločnosť. Budeme čítať úryvky vyššie uvedenej korešpondencie a debatovať o výsledkoch výskumu Američanky Madeline Vadkerty, ktorá žije v Bratislave. Pani Vadkerty pôsobila ako výskumníčka v americkom Múzeu holokaustu vo Washingtone, DC. Listy predstavujú súčasť budúcej knihy. Diskusia bude zahŕňať 4 panelistov: pani Vadkerty, historika Ivana Kamenca, publicistu Petra Juščáka a novinárku Soňu Gyarfášovú.

Dúfame, že ten čerstvý pohľad na holokaust na Slovensku otvorí záujem o túto časť histórie, o následkoch antisemitizmu a extrémneho nacionalizmu a zlepší porozumenie a toleranciu.

Madeline Vadkerty, Vahagn Petrosyan



Vahagn Petrosyan from Armenia is a freelance interpreter with nearly thirty years of experience, 20 of which as a simultaneous interpreter for the EU, the UN, the Council of Europe and Armenian government agencies (English).

Gift or poison? Translators' false friends

English, Saturday, 12:00–13:00, Multilingual Speakers room

You arrive in a new country and one of the first things you see is an advertising poster for mineral water. The text makes you stop in your tracks. Do they really mean that the water gives you diarrhea? This is when you realize that you have encountered another case of “false friends”. In this talk we will explore many hilarious associations between words and expressions in various languages that sound similar but have very different meanings. Come to our interactive session and share your “false friends” experiences.

Marcello Bonì



Marcello Bonì nasce a Pantelleria, ultima frontiera italiana dove viene parlata una delle più antiche versioni del siciliano. Scopre, durante un'esperienza Erasmus a Parigi, di avere una forte passione per le lingue che lo porta ad uno studio comparato e approfondito delle lingue. Si laurea in Scienze della Comunicazione a Roma, e incomincia una carriera come professore di Italiano per stranieri online e dal vivo. Agevolato soprattutto dalle proprie inclinazioni artistiche e studi sulla comunicazione, che rendono le proprie lezioni molto gradevoli e coinvolgenti. La sua missione è migliorare se stesso migliorando e aiutando i propri studenti. Tutto quello che impara diventa immediatamente conoscenza per i suoi studenti.

Il siciliano. Introduzione e approccio alla lingua

Italian, Thursday, 12:00–13:00, Vortoj room

In pratica spiegherei ai poliglotti che parlano italiano come apprendere il siciliano attraverso modelli convertibili ed esercizi pratici e divertenti. Verrebbe spiegata l'importanza della pronuncia di questa lingua, a volte sottovalutata su questo aspetto, inoltre sarebbe invece scoperta la facilità con cui si può progredire nell'apprendimento di questa lingua molto speciale non solo grazie all'italiano, ma anche grazie a lingue come lo spagnolo e il portoghese. Infatti esistono molte parole che vengono dal francese. Invece basandosi sulla grammatica sarebbe molto semplice affidarsi anche solo alla lingua spagnola. Questa lingua ha la bellezza di essere considerata da molti come un

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dialetto italiano, ed in parte è vero. Tuttavia la sua origine e la sua essenza sono da attribuire ad un'unione di tutte le lingue romanze in unico mix armonioso, musicale e simpatico a molte persone nel mondo.

Maria Spantidi



Maria is a language enthusiast from Greece. There's nothing she enjoys more than imitating the sounds of a language, trying to pass for a native speaker, learning languages for free, helping others do the same, and getting language certificates without any preparation. She taught herself 6 languages in 6 years.

7 + 1 razones para aprender euskera, el idioma de los vascos

Spanish, Saturday, 11:00–12:00, Assimil room

Hablado en las regiones de Navarra y País Vasco, en el norte de España, y el suroeste de Francia, el euskera es un idioma vivo y antiquísimo cuyo origen, hoy por hoy, aún se desconoce. Sin embargo, tiene fama de lengua difícil, y, a pesar de ser una lengua con menos de un millón de hablantes, en una zona tan pequeña, tiene muchos dialectos, subdialectos y variedades locales que a veces son de difícil comprensión para hablantes del euskera unificado. Es más, no todos los vascos lo hablan, y los que lo dominan son bilingües y hablan también perfectamente el español (o el francés, en su caso si viven al norte de los Pirineos). Entonces, ¿por qué aprender euskera? ¿De qué sirve? Yo soy griega, y a pesar de no tener ninguna relación con el País Vasco o los vascos, decidí aprender euskera por Internet y esta ha sido una de las mejores decisiones que he tomado en mi vida. En esta charla hablaremos de las razones por las que aprender euskera puede ser una idea muy buena.

Mariana Lisovska



Mariana Lisovska is an online language coach and tutor of English, an owner of an offline school of English, an organizer of Tutor's Forum (one of the biggest conferences for language tutors in Ukraine). She speaks English, Ukrainian, Russian, French, Spanish, Polish and Arabic.

How to motivate yourself achieve more (namely learn more languages)

English, Sunday, 10:00–11:00, E@I room

We strive for it. We lack it and desperately look for it. We make excuses when we don't have it. Can you guess what I'm talking about? It's all about motivation.

The key to becoming a more successful person is in finding your drive and the reasons for it. Psychologists and neuroscientists, among them Dr. Edward Deci and Richahrd Ryan, have proven, "People are intrinsically motivated by autonomy, mastery and purpose." This key statement can change everything for you. It can shape your thinking and who you are. How? By understading how it works.

Autonomy is the desire to direct our own lives. Mastery is the desire to improve at a meaningful skill or technique. Purpose is the desire to contribute to something larger than yourself.

How can you apply these simple yet crucial principles? We want to feel we make

important decisions by ourselves. Nobody forces us. So, next time you want to find a teacher to motivate you, ask yourself, “What is my personal decision, do I need this language or not? If I need it, then what for? What will change in my life when I achieve my goal? How will I feel?” These and a number of other powerful questions may change the whole perspective for you.

Mastery. To verify your goal is in accordance with this principle too you should ask yourself over a period of time, “What have I achieved so far? How have my skills improved? Where can I use this knowledge?”

Purpose. Is learning a language only about learning a language? Isn't it the way to get the job of your dreams? Find the love of your life? Move to the best place on the Earth? Get out of a rut? Find out what it means for you. It's not just the language. It's the whole world opened up for you. You should only ask yourself right questions.

This topic is based on the book by Susan Fowler *Why motivating people doesn't work... and what does: the new science of leading, energising, and engaging.*

Marta Melnyk



Marta is a person of many interests and talents. She speaks 5 languages fluently and has basic knowledge of many others. On daily basis, Marta does a lot of different stuff. One of her favorite is dancing. She dances Oriental dance, Reggeaton, Ballet and Hula. Marta is an experienced public speaker, so she knows how to make workshops joyful, but also informative.

All about you in Ukrainian

English, Saturday, 11:00–12:00, Multilingual Speakers room

Do you like talking about yourself? Do you have to present yourself and would like to do this in different languages? Why not to learn self-introduction in Ukrainian? This will be a good start for learning Ukrainian if you have do not speak any Ukrainian and good opportunity to practice if you already have some basics. As a bonus, we will play a language game.

So, if you like interactive learning, I'll be glad to welcome you on my workshop.

What are you dancing about?

English, Thursday, 11:00–13:00, Esperanto room

Music is the universal language of mankind, but it evokes the movements that can noticeably differ depending on the culture. You may think that we all dance about the same, but we DO have something unique to dance about. As any other language, we also use different moves (words) and styles (grammar) to express our feelings.

Let's find out what are the differences and similarities, practice a bit and master a new level of body language.

During the workshop, we will practice dance styles from different regions of the world, discuss reasons of this diversity, and I'll teach you one choreography of your choice.

Take some comfortable clothes and shoes and see you on the dance workshop!

“Douze Points for Polyglots”: How Languages make Eurovision Song Contest songs win or fail (with Aleksandar Medjedovic)

See description on page 22.

Marta Nowakowska



Marta Nowakowska is a doctoral student at the Veterinary Faculty of Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, Germany. Her work focuses on the field of neurobiology, with specific emphasis on the role of inflammatory processes during epileptogenesis.

Privately, her interests encompass science in a broad sense, sports and pop-culture. She is able to communicate to different extents in four languages and learning two more.

Neuroscience of language: how the brain enables us to speak?

English, Sunday, 11:00–12:00, E@I room

Language, being a skill attributed solely to humans, remains one of the most complex processes occurring in the brain. Combining the mechanisms of both sensory and motor systems, as well as intricate cognitive functions, the effective use of language poses a particular challenge on the neurological level. The famed complexity of the nervous system is the main reason for which researching the human (and not only) brain is a daring and fascinating pursuit.

During this talk, we will explore ways in which speaking and writing shaped the evolution of the brain and how curiosities like a strong lateralisation of language-related brain regions in the left hemisphere, influence additional unique aspects of human biology, permitting high-level communication abilities.

The talk shall explain anatomical and physiological fundamentals of linguistic mechanisms and, based on examples of the most common disorders of language and communication, it shall also serve as a brief introduction into methodology used in neuro-linguistic research.

Moreover, some basic putative mechanisms of language processing (at cellular and supercellular level) will be discussed. Finally, hot topics in the field of neuroscience of language will be presented, mostly focusing on the latest neural network research.

Mateusz Pietraszek



Mateusz Pietraszek holds an MA in Spanish Studies, an MA in Spanish Linguistics and is pursuing his doctoral degree in English Linguistics specialising in second language phonology, which became his passion in secondary school alongside syntax and historical linguistics. He has taught Spanish and English and works as a lecturer of English and English Phonetics at Francisco de Vitoria University, Madrid, Spain. An avid language learner, he speaks Polish (native), English (C2), Spanish (C2), French (C1), Catalan (C1) and German (C1) with smatterings of Portuguese (B1), Italian, Dutch and Basque.

Making yourself understood in international English

English, Friday, 15:00–16:00, E@I room

English is spoken by two billion people worldwide and only 20 percent of those are native speakers. Yet most learners will typically only consider American and British English when choosing their target pronunciation standard. While this is understandable for political and educational reasons, the big picture of English pronunciation(s) seems much more complex.

Would you like to find out what is (and isn't) necessary to effectively communicate in international English? Would you like to know what kind of pronunciation features will boost or hinder your intelligibility in a world where 80 percent of all English speakers are non-natives? Is sounding native or native-like always the best policy? Are you able to recognise and understand less common English accents? Would you like to understand Marie Kondo's English? In this interactive talk, we will reflect on these (and more) questions from the perspective of English as a global language. Although the focus will be on pronunciation, other useful – and often counter-intuitive – findings from English as a Lingua Franca research on syntax and pragmatics will be presented. The participating polyglots will be invited to analyse chunks of data and to discuss their own conclusions with peers.

Matthieu Desplantes



Matthieu is from France but has been living in Slovakia for five years. He studied computer engineering and now works with both computers and languages. He likes Slavic languages: he speaks conversational Slovak and Russian and is now learning Polish.

Pourquoi apprendre le russe

French, Friday, 16:00–17:00, Vortoj room

La vodka, le froid, les ours et le terrifiant alphabet cyrillique : voilà l'image que beaucoup d'Occidentaux ont de la Russie. Quel meilleur moyen de se débarrasser des clichés sur un pays que d'en apprendre la langue ? Dans cette présentation, je parlerai de ce que l'apprentissage du russe a pu m'apporter et des avantages que peut donner sa connaissance. Je détaillerai quelques particularités du russe qui en font une langue belle et fascinante. Déclinaisons, prononciation et alphabet étrange : le russe mérite-t-il vraiment sa réputation de langue difficile ?

Miguel Ariza



Born in New York City to Mexican parents, Miguel got a late start to language learning, but once he started learning Greek on his own in his early 20's, he started his language journey, relearning French, studying Mandarin, and attempting to learn various Slavic languages on his own and traveling to several countries to practice each language he has studied. He also used to organize language exchange socials in his city to allow local language learners to practice their languages.

La música regional mexicana, y cómo la usé para mejorar mi español

Spanish, Sunday, 15:00–16:00, Esperanto room

México es un país grande y diverso, y cada región tiene su género musical en específico. En esta presentación, hablaré de los varios géneros musicales que son populares en el país, escucharán un poco de cada tipo de música, y explicaré como usé uno de esos géneros para mejorar mi español en mi juventud, y que aún hoy en día, a veces escucho.

Momtchil Karaguiozov



Momtchil Karaguiozov is a language lover from Bulgaria who graduated MA in Slavic Studies with focus on Czech language. He is a linguist by education, as well as a linguist in his heart, who is currently working in IT industry using his multilingual skills. His language competences, goals and interests are aimed mostly, but not only, at the region Central and Eastern Europe. Besides languages he also enjoys exploring traditional music from that region and knows the lyrics of at least one popular folklore song in any of the languages.

Lužická srbština – Jazyk/y jednoho méně známého slovanského národu

Czech, Thursday, 12:00–13:00, Assimil room

Kolik je slovanských jazyků? Slyšeli jste o dolno- a hornolužické srbštině? Lužičtí Srbové jsou slovanskou menšinou v Braniborsku a Sasku. Jejich jazyk, nebo jazyky, jsou z lingvistického hlediska velmi zajímavé. Podívejme se spolu na ní! Dozvíte se víc o lužických Srbecha a jak se jejich jazyky liší mezi sebou a od ostatních slovanských jazyků.

Nacho Caballero



Nacho is on a quest to help people get out of Spanish Intermediate purgatory. He has spent the past three years creating unconventional Spanish lessons for people who want to be more deliberate about the way they learn Spanish (check it out at itsnachotime.com). He lives in Barcelona and is currently spending all his waking hours developing a web application to make learning advanced Spanish a much more enjoyable experience.

Cómo hacer oído en el siglo XXI: dictados, bucles y el botón de pausa

Spanish, Saturday, 16:00–17:00, Assimil room

Cuando oyes a dos nativos hablando entre ellos, ¿eres capaz de entender todo lo que dicen? Si ya llevas unos meses estudiando tu idioma, probablemente puedas decir de qué va la conversación, pero repetirla palabra por palabra no siempre es tan fácil. La clave para mejorar tu capacidad de escucha es darte cuenta de cuáles son las combinaciones de sonidos que todavía no conoces y practicarlas de forma deliberada, hasta que te parezcan obvias. Esto requiere un esfuerzo pero si lo haces bien puede ser muy gratificante. El objetivo de esta charla es que aprendas a escuchar de forma más activa. Quiero ayudarte a darte cuenta de los detalles que normalmente se te escapan en mitad de una conversación, a que seas capaz de entender a nativos sin estresarte porque hablan demasiado rápido, y a utilizar los sonidos que más te cuesta identificar para ganar fluidez y mejorar tu acento.

Natalia Pugacheva



Natalia is a native Russian speaker who is passionate about languages. She speaks English, German and a bit Arabic. Natalia is a linguist and a teacher who always tries to implement new approaches to learning and teaching foreign languages in order to inspire and to be inspired. She believes that learning foreign languages is a fascinating journey which makes us a different person!

Как звучать как носитель русского языка?

Russian, Saturday, 12:00–13:00, Vortoj room

Вы хотите говорить как носитель русского языка? Использовать такие слова и выражения, которые мы используем в повседневной жизни? Понимать людей вокруг Вас на улице, в театре или в кафе? Тогда все это мы сможем с Вами узнать на нашем уроке. Конечно, Вы знаете стилистически нейтральную лексику русского языка, но наша цель – выучить такие слова, выражения, конструкции, которые позволяют нам говорить как носители русского языка, а также сразу же использовать изученный материал на практике. Вы сами сможете стать участником тех или иных ситуаций. В двух словах, мы узнаем «живой» русский язык с точки зрения теории и практики. Присоединяйтесь! Мы вместе всё «разложим по полочкам»!

Nathalie Töpperwien Blom



Nathalie Töpperwien Blom – holds a B.A. in Global studies focusing on human rights, sustainable development and inclusion. Nathalie has worked with value based and gender focused programs, she has a solid experience in process management and leading workshops with interactive methods and discussion aiming for lasting changes in behaviour and attitude.

Language matters – inclusion, equality and normcreativity

English, Sunday, 10:00–12:00, Multilingual Speakers room

Open up for your ability to communicate in a more including way! Do you want to reach more people and increase profits? Do you want your language to reflect your values and principles? Do you want to make your language gender sensitive, rather than excluding or discriminatory? In this interactive workshop we will start reflecting upon our own privileges and norms and see how these affect the way we speak. It is all about what words and phrases we chose to use within the languages we already master. You will leave the workshop with plenty of new insights and a tool-box full of practical examples in a variety of languages!

Olga Diacova



Originated from Moldova, Olga is a bilingual native speaker of Russian and Romanian. She is also fluent in English, Polish and Dutch, and has achieved conversational level in German, Finnish and Swedish.

Olga is a certified ESL (English as a Second Language) Teacher.

Slavic inflections: a travel guide

English, Thursday, 10:00–11:00, Amikumu room

Are you planning a trip to Russia or another Slavic-speaking country? For an English speaker, Slavic languages might seem pretty hard to be learned, considering the number of conjugations and declensions, due to which the ending of a word is changed. Would you like to understand the most important features of Slavic languages and learn some basic phrases in Russian and Polish before your journey? Come and get some useful travelling tips!

Ondřej Matuška



Ondřej Matuška graduated in English language and literature and started working as an English teacher. Later he joined Macmillan Education as a ELT teacher trainer and presenter. Since 2016, he has been a trainer at Lexical Computing, a company behind Sketch Engine, a leading corpus query, corpus management and corpus building software. Ondřej's professional interest is in introducing corpora to the general public for use as a language reference resource or for language learning.

Corpus linguistics for language lovers

English, Saturday, 17:00–18:00, E@I room

How can you check what is natural in language? How do you tell if a word or phrase is really used? You ask thousands of speakers. This might be difficult. But if you have access to a text corpus, you can get all the answers in seconds. I will show you that you do not have to be a linguist or a computer geek to use the corpora in Sketch Engine.

A text corpus is a multi-billion-word collection of texts and Sketch Engine is a web service to search corpora in over 90 languages including less-resourced ones such as Catalan, Tamil, Maori or N'Ko. The biggest corpora exceed the size of 10 billion words (English, Spanish, French, Russian...).

This demo will demonstrate how to use the corpora in Sketch Engine to learn about words and phrases, explore the grammar or collocations, look for authentic examples,

search multi-billion-word linguistic databases and

learn how language works

90 languages

frequency lists

examples of use

collocations
typical word combinations

synonyms
thesaurus

and more



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find translations, or automatically identify terminology. You can even create your own corpus in a language that you fancy – and then analyze it. Sketch Engine also looks for enthusiastic speakers of various languages willing to help them evaluate new corpora. Participants are encouraged to bring their own internet-enabled devices to test Sketch Engine on the spot.

Oscar Hughes



Oscar Hughes is a Brit who studied languages, linguistics and translation from 2013 to 2018 at Cambridge in the UK with one semester abroad in Rome and another in Berlin and then went on to complete a five-month translation traineeship at the European Commission. He is currently still working as a (paid) intern doing translation, terminology and editing at the Swiss Federal Chancellery. He speaks several Germanic, Romance and Slavonic languages and managed to translate successfully from ten languages at the European Commission.

What is it like to translate at the European Commission?

Multilingual, Thursday, 11:00–12:00, Amikumu room

Drawing on my recent experience as a trainee in the English department of the European Commission's Directorate-General for Translation, I will give an overview of the work translators do at the Commission. I will explain what types of texts are translated between which languages and how this relates to the EU's language policy. The talk will also cover how the translators are organised, what skills they require, what tasks they perform other than translation and what role computer-aided translation and machine translation play. By the end it will be clear why the English department is considered unique within the Directorate-General, and what I perceive to be the challenges and perks of the job will also be revealed. I will also briefly outline the application processes for traineeships and temporary and permanent jobs at the Commission and other EU institutions.

Oung-Heng Heng



Oung-Heng Heng is a language enthusiast who was brought up speaking Teochew at home. Although he speaks better French than Teochew, hearing the sounds of this language in Paris' Chinatown or when on travel in S.-E. Asia feels like home. He has been building up knowledge about Teochew since college at a time when he was discussing the language with people around the globe, from Auckland to Shantou, Paris, New York and San Francisco. He would like to open a small window into his culture.

When he was a child, his parents were always telling him that a good handwriting is essential to a well educated person so he taught himself calligraphy, and it became a hobby.

Caligrafía china con un lápiz o un bolígrafo

Spanish, Saturday, 16:00–17:00, Vortoj room

El año pasado había un taller de caligrafía china con pinceles y tinto, pero la caligrafía no es muy práctica para hacerla en cualquier sitio y no tan útil para el estudio cotidiano del chino o del japonés. Entonces, este año escribiremos con un lápiz o un bolígrafo. La presentación se centrará en errores que los aprendices cometen a menudo cuando escriben caracteres chinos que también se llaman «hanzi», y en consejos para tener una letra hermosa. Como las letras latinas escritas a mano no se parecen a Times New Roman, no deberías escribir los hanzi confiándote en las formas de estos en SimSun, MingLiu o Mincho.

En el mundo de hoy, repleto de tecnología, la escritura manuscrita no parece tan importante como antes. Pero si tienes una letra linda, todavía resaltarás. Si quieres ganar a (muchos) chinos y japoneses en este campo, ¡venga a esta presentación!

Teochew, another Minnan language

Teochew with English subtitles, Saturday, 12:00–13:00, Assimil room

Teochew is a Sinitic language of the Minnan subfamily which also includes Taiwanese. This is a short introduction to the language and it includes phonology and vocabulary comparisons with Mandarin, Japanese and Korean. The talk will be part in Teochew with English subtitle and part in English.

Paloma Marín Arraiza



Paloma is from Spain but has been living abroad for almost six years, in Germany and Brazil. She currently lives in Austria. Paloma studied physics and information science and is about to finish her PhD in library and information science. She speaks (to various degrees) Spanish, Portuguese, English, German, and Catalan. Her interest in minor languages made her also learn Basque (still at a beginner level). She has been teaching Spanish as a foreign language for three years and collaborating with the blog Sprachheld for one year and half. Aside from languages and scientific articles, she is interested in outdoor activities (spectacular Austrian landscape), history and politics and handcraft (mainly knitting and crochet).

scientific articles, she is interested in outdoor activities (spectacular Austrian landscape), history and politics and handcraft (mainly knitting and crochet).

El aprendizaje significativo y su aplicación en el aprendizaje de español

Spanish, Saturday, 10:00–11:00, Assimil room

Los idiomas tienen diferentes estructuras, diferentes gramáticas y diferentes maneras de abordar el mismo aspecto. Por lo general, los estudiantes de idiomas (todos nosotros incluidos) tienen dificultades para desarrollar un nuevo idioma y estructuran el idioma objetivo utilizando la vía de la traducción. ¿Qué pasa si intentamos conectar nuestros conocimientos lingüísticos previos con el idioma objetivo? Esta es la base del “aprendizaje significativo”, una técnica para vincular conocimiento en lugar de palabras, añadiendo más comprensión, no sólo memorizando palabras. Esta charla se centrará en la aplicación de esta técnica para aprender español, pero puede extrapolarse a cualquier otro idioma. Mostraré ejemplos donde el español es el idioma objetivo, así como ejemplos donde el español es el idioma ya conocido.

Patrick Ziemke



Patrick is a German guy, currently living in Phnom Penh / Cambodia. He obtained a degree in German and Political sciences at the University of Hildesheim and is now teaching his native language at the Goethe-Institut in the capital of Cambodia. He is fluent in English, French, Low German and Dutch. Patrick's current language project is Khmer (Cambodian). His favourite animal is the wombat.

Moin! Plattdeutsch. Eine Einführung

German, Friday, 17:00–18:00, Assimil room

Moin! Allens kloar? Wie geht dek dat? Hast du schon einmal von der plattdeutschen Sprache gehört? Plattdeutsch ist eine Regionalsprache, die vor allem im Norden Deutschlands und im Nordosten der Niederlande verbreitet ist. Heute zum Großteil vom Aussterben bedroht, weist sie eine lange, reiche Geschichte auf. Der Vortrag wird eine Einführung in die Sprachgeschichte geben, die zahlreichen Dialekte des Plattdeutschen darstellen und auf die heutige Situation eingehen: Wer spricht die Sprache? Warum? Wie wird sie geschützt (oder nicht)? Und wie sehr unterscheidet sich das Plattdeutsche eigentlich von der großen bösen Schwester, dem Deutschen? Allens kloar? Wi sieht üsch!

Petr Fedosov



Petr Fedosov, 14 years old. He was born and lives in Moscow, so his native language is Russian, but he also studies English, Esperanto (he speaks it at C1 level), French, German, Latin and Ancient Greek. He's specially interested in constructed languages. Petr also practises historical dances and is keen on intellectual games.

Zamenhof ne estis lingvisto

Esperanto, Friday, 16:00–17:00, Assimil room

Zamenhof ne estis lingvisto. Tio estas ne supozo, sed certa fakto. Sed kiamaniere tio influis la lingvon? Kiujn problemojn tio kaŭzis? Kaj ĉu tio fakte estas problemoj? Kaj se tio tamen estas problemoj, ĉu Zamenhof ne konsciis tion? Ĝuste tion ni penos ekscii dum la prelego. Ĉiuj esperantistoj estas bonvenaj!

Latino por esperantistoj

Esperanto, Saturday, 12:00–13:00, Amikumu room

Esperanton oni kutime nomas “moderna Latino”, “Latino de nova tempo” ks. Unu el kialoj de tiuspeca nomiĝado klaras: dum Mezepoko Latino estis internacia lingvo, kaj oni volas per tio diri, ke Esperanto estas tiu nuntempa. Sed oni nomas ankaŭ la duan kialon: Esperanto dank'al multaj aferoj similas al Latino. Ĉu vere estas tiel? Dum tiu prelego ni tion ekscios, rigardante la lingvon mem: ni rigardos Latinan fonetikon, morfologion kaj iomete sintakson (ĉu sin-takson?) kaj legos ankaŭ la Latinan tekston, rimarkante similojn. Ne venu fino al via Latino! Vos expecto: venite omnes!

Philippe Gagneur, Daniel Krasa



Philippe Gagneur, publisher, is French and grew up in Paris. He came to Germany in 1982 and started working for Assimil in 1991. He lives in Cologne, Germany, where he designs the German adaptations of the Assimil courses as well as German language courses for foreigners, together with a small team of polyglots. When he went to school it was very hard for him to learn German and later English, so he experienced the difficulties of language learning at first hand – one reason why he considers

it very important to create language courses for everybody, not only for young people and talented learners.



It was at a very young age that Daniel Krasa found out that conversing in a foreign language can make life much easier. He has been learning languages ever since and counts more than 30 languages in his learning portfolio. After studying Arabic in Jordan he fell in love with India and spent a few years there, specializing in Northern-Indian languages such as Hindi, Urdu, Marathi and others.

Assimil, 90 Jahre jung: Die kleinen Geheimnisse des Erfolgs für 9- bis 99-jährige Lerner

German, Thursday, 16:00–17:00, Assimil room

Dieses Jahr wurde die Assimil-Methode 90 Jahre alt. Philippe und Daniel beschäftigen sich auf verschiedenen Ebenen seit etwa 30 Jahren mit den Besonderheiten dieser Lernmethode und sorgen schon länger gemeinsam dafür, dass ihr immer mehr Sprachen mit Assimil erlernen könnt. In diesem sehr locker gestalteten Vortrag werden beide über Ihre Erfahrungen mit Assimil und vor allem über ihre Erfahrungen mit jüngeren und älteren – jung gebliebenen – AssimilistInnen berichten. Dabei werden sie das eine oder andere kleine Geheimnisse lüften. Der Vortrag wird auf Deutsch gehalten und parallel immer wieder kurz auf Englisch zusammengefasst. Anregungen und Fragen könnt ihr am Ende des Vortrags in euren vielen Sprachen stellen.

Richard Simcott



Richard Simcott is the Languages Director at The Social Element and the Founder of the Polyglot Conference. He was born in the UK and has lived in a number of countries, where he's used his languages for work, study and friendships across the world.

Jack of all languages

English, Thursday, 09:00–10:00, E@I room

A look into my experience of polyglots and the dark art of learning multiple languages. An insider's view of what we speak, how we speak and the tricks of the masters to speak in a short time.

Rick Dearman



Rick Dearman has written more than twenty books either under his own name or as a ghost writer. Rick has worked as a cook, dishwasher, aircraft mechanic, computer programmer, IT manager and most recently the Head of IT for a major clothing retailer. He is currently learning French, Italian, Mandarin and Setswana.

What I learned from 500+ language exchanges in 3 months

English, Thursday, 10:00–11:00, E@I room

At the end of 2018 I had some time off work, and I scheduled 3-6 language exchanges every weekday. After 500+ language exchanges I learned some interesting things about exchanges, where to get them, how to schedule them and the people who do them. Join me as I recount the pros and the cons of massive amounts of language exchanges and give you some tips to make your language exchanges better.

Roman Rubtsov



Roman Rubtsov studierte Fremdsprachen und Altertumswissenschaft an der Sankt Petersburger Staatlichen Universität bis zur Absolvierung des Masterstudiums in 2017, seitdem als Gasthörer.

Ob die Lateinkenntnisse wirklich helfen romanische Sprache zu lernen?

German, Saturday, 17:00–18:00, Assimil room

In meinem Talk werde ich über mehrere mit dem Lateinstudium verbundenen Sachen erzählen, am meisten aber über folgende Fragen: wie kann „Latein zu kennen“ an den verschiedenen Plätzen um die Welt unterschiedlich verstanden werden und ob dieses Wissen jemandem und unter welchen Bedingungen wirklich hilft. Ich wette, dass fast alle Teilnehmer hier seine eigene Erfahrung zum Thema haben, wer hat aber mit Latein etwas ehrlich erreicht? Die Rede wird auch darum gehen, wie muss man ausgestorbene Sprache zu lernen um weitverbreitendes Resultat zu erwarten.

Ruben Adery



Ruben Adery is a dialect coach and pronunciation specialist living in Los Angeles. Fluent in 5 languages, he has spent much of his adult life trying to perfect the natural quality of his accent in each language, as well as imitate many foreign accents in English. More importantly, he is continually developing new strategies to simplify and relate the learning process for anyone looking to build more confidence. He focuses most of his efforts on perfecting pronunciation and appropriate word choice since the way you speak generates an identity that often represents your overall language ability.

The sincerest form of flattery: Imitating foreign accents to help master any language*English, Thursday, 12:00–13:00, E@I room*

How does a Spanish speaker typically pronounce “busy” in English? How would an Israeli say “reality”? What about an American trying to pronounce “São Paulo”? What would you expect to come out? Why does it even matter?

If you took pronunciation out of the equation, language learning would be a lot less daunting of a task. Most people can learn fixed rules and exceptions, but not everyone can acquire the sounds that make up the phonology of a given foreign language. Aside from the fact that it’s not always addressed in classes, it’s usually a complex process. But what if you could acquire all the sounds in your target language before you even started studying? What if you could identify and extract common speech patterns and pronunciation nuances from non-natives in *your* language and create a system through which every new word could be filtered?

This talk invites you to start thinking like a native of your target language by analyzing foreign accents in your native language. Examples will mostly come from (but aren’t limited to) variations of English and extend to areas of grammar, rhythm, intonation, and even facial expressions and body language. The more accents you’re familiar with, the more connections you can make!

Seán Ó Riain

Dr Seán Ó Riain is Deputy Resident Representative of Ireland to the International Organisations in Vienna, and Deputy Ambassador at the Embassy of Ireland. His Ph.D thesis, from Trinity College, Dublin, compares language planning in Ireland and Québec. He speaks Irish, English, French, German, Polish, Spanish, Welsh and Esperanto; and has a lesser knowledge of Italian, Russian, Scottish Gaelic and Welsh. He believes that nobody should gain lifelong, unearned privileges through being a native speaker of a dominant language, and that Europe can do pioneering work in promoting linguistic justice and equal language rights for all.

Language planning in Ireland – lessons from the Hebrew revival?*English, Thursday, 15:00–16:00, Amikumu room*

Israel is the only example of a country which revived a language that was dead for over 2000 years. In 1880 not a single family in the world spoke Hebrew. Now some 9 million Israelis use it as their daily language. How was this feat achieved? Ireland has been aiming for a similar achievement, with far less success, but Irish results are also far from a failure. Irish never died out completely, as did Hebrew, but it was banned for centuries during the foreign occupation of Ireland. In 1882 an innocent Irishman was accused of murder and hanged – he was not allowed defend himself in Irish, and he knew no English. What is the essential difference between the Hebrew and Irish language revivals? And what can Ireland learn from the successes of Hebrew?

Irish for beginners*English, Thursday, 12:00–13:00, Multilingual Speakers room*

Learn some useful phrases in Irish, and be surprised at its unusual structure and its pronunciation, which are very distant from English.

Simon Ager



Simon got interested in Scottish Gaelic through songs and music many years ago, and has done courses in Gaelic song at Sabhal Mòr Ostaig, the Gaelic college on the Isle of Skye in Scotland. He speaks Scottish Gaelic fairly well, and some other languages. He runs Omniglot, the online encyclopedia of writing systems and languages, sings in choirs, plays in musical groups, and writes songs and tunes.

Simon has been interested in dancing for many years. His parents used to hold *cèilidhs* in their kitchen, and he learnt some Scottish country dances at primary school. After a long gap he started dancing regularly at *cèilidhs* / *twmpathau* in Wales, and when he goes to Scotland, Ireland, Cornwall and the Isle of Man.

Scottish Gaelic song workshop

English, Thursday, 15:00–16:00, Esperanto room

This workshop will be an introduction to the Scottish Gaelic song tradition, and will provide examples of different types of Gaelic songs, such as waulking songs (*òrain luaidh*), mouth music (*puirt-à-beul*) and lullabys (*talaidhean*). English translations of the songs will be provided, along with some background to the songs. Participants will be encouraged to sing a few songs. No previous knowledge of Scottish Gaelic is required. Bring your best singing voice.

Omniglot - the online encyclopedia of writing systems and languages

<p>алфавиты <i>Alphabets</i></p>	<p>كُتُبٌ <i>Abjads</i></p>
<p>अबुगिदास <i>Abugidas</i></p>	<p>𐌲𐌿𐌽𐌿𐌿𐌸 <i>Magical scripts</i></p>
<p>ሲላባሪ <i>Syllabaries</i></p>	<p>ᲠᲣᲚᲗ <i>Fictional scripts</i></p>
<p> <i>Semanto-phonetic scripts</i></p>	<p>ᲠᲣᲚᲗ <i>Constructed scripts</i></p>

- Phrases • Numbers • Colours • Time • Family words
- Idioms • Proverbs • Tongue twisters • Articles
- Language learning tips • Radio Omniglot Podcast • Celtiadur

Simon Ager, Maureen Millward



Maureen was taught *cèilidh* dancing at school in Scotland. She is passionate about Scottish traditional culture and music.

Cèilidh / Twmpath Dance Workshop

English, Friday, 16:00–18:00, Esperanto room

A traditional Scottish *cèilidh* is a kind of party involving music, dancing, singing, eating, drinking, and general merriment. The word *cèilidh* [k¹e:ɪ] means a visit or to visit. These days a *cèilidh* is mainly about dancing. The Welsh equivalent is a *twmpath* [ˈtumpaθ], and in England there are country dances and barn dances. This workshop will teach some traditional folk dances from Scotland, Wales and England. No experience is necessary, but make sure you bring your dancing feet!

Simon Lejeune



Simon Lejeune is a 21-year-old language learner from Belgium. He started to get into languages when he was 15 and started to learn Spanish by himself. He is now doing Linguistic studies and is passionate about the linguistic heritage of his region.

« Septante », vous avez dit « septante » ?!

French, Thursday, 09:00–10:00, Assimil room

Un des aspects du français qui est régulièrement oublié, c'est qu'il s'agit d'une langue variée, multiple, et riche entre autres de ses différences géographiques. Le français ne se limite pas à Paris, et il est très loin de seulement se limiter à la France. Cette présentation est une invitation à découvrir une des variantes du français, à savoir le français de Belgique. Si les Français et les Belges parlent la même langue, il n'en demeure pas loin qu'il existe certaines différences notables qu'il convient de connaître pour s'exprimer au mieux dans le plat pays. Vous apprendrez à un peu mieux connaître le pays de Jacques Brel, en découvrant le sens de mots comme « souper », « guindaille », « bourgmestre », et vous apprendrez, entre autres, pourquoi parler d'accent belge n'a aucun sens et pourquoi cela énerve au plus haut point les Belges. N'attendez plus une seconde et venez découvrir avec moi comment la langue de Molière est parlée dans le pays de l'absurde !

Simon Lejeune, Magdaléna Lendvorská



Magda and Simon met last year during the Polyglot Gathering. They got along quite well and are in a relationship ever since. Simon is doing linguistic studies and Magda studies economics, but she's not against brushing up on her languages from time to time.

Láska je slepá, ça fait même apprendre des langues !

French and Slovak, Friday, 10:00–11:00, Assimil room

2 juin 2018, Université d'économie de Bratislava, Polyglot Gathering. Elle prend le soleil sur un banc, il se désaltère avec une bonne bière, juste à côté. Leurs regards se croisent, ils se parlent, ils sympathisent. S'ensuit une merveilleuse aventure, durant laquelle ils se donnent un défi de taille : tout donner pour apprendre

la langue de l'autre, et revenir un an plus tard, au même endroit, pour partager leur histoire et montrer comment l'amour leur fit apprendre une langue qu'ils n'auraient jamais pensé apprendre. Preuves à l'appui : c'est Magda qui parlera français, et Simon slovaque.

2. júna 2018, Ekonomická univerzita v Bratislave, Polyglot Gathering. Ona si užívala slnečné poludnie na lavičke, on si vychutnával dobré pivo vedľa nej. Ich pohľady sa stretli, dali sa do reči a čo nasledovalo potom bolo úžasné dobrodružstvo, počas ktorého uzavreli medzi sebou stávkou: urobiť všetko preto, aby sa naučili jazyk toho druhého a vrátili sa takto o rok na miesto, kde to všetko začalo, aby vyzroprávali svoj príbeh a aby ukázali ako ich láska presvedčila naučiť sa jazyk, o ktorom nikdy netušili, že sa ho raz naučia. A chceli by vám to aj dokázať – Magda, ktorá hovorí po francúzsky a Simon, ktorý ovláda slovenčinu.

Siru Laine



Siru is a Finnish translator currently living in Barcelona. She holds a BA in Icelandic and an MA in Translation Studies, both from the University of Iceland. She started to learn English at the age of 9 and, out of curiosity, added new languages to her school subjects whenever they became available for her. She had 9 foreign languages in her upper secondary school diploma and learned some new ones as an adult. Besides languages and historical linguistics, Siru enjoys singing, knitting and planking.

Basque–Icelandic pidgin

English, Thursday, 16:00–17:00, Amikumumu room

An introduction to a pidgin spoken in Northern Iceland in the 17th century. Used as a means of communication between Basque whalers and Icelanders, it remains a mystery as only a few manuscripts have survived. We will be looking at the history and the structure of this pidgin, as well as learning some useful vocabulary.

Sonia Jin



As a Chinese born in Spain, Sonia developed a passion for foreign languages from an early age. She's constantly moving around and has lived in different places, from doing a gap year in Texas to being an exchange student in Russia! She graduated in Modern Languages with Translation from the University of Nottingham studying French and Russian. During her gap year in the US, she had the chance to learn American Sign Language, which is when she fell in love with the Deaf culture. She then learned British Sign

Language in the UK and founded the very first Sign Language Society at her university.

Introduction to Sign Language

English, Thursday, 17:00–18:00, Multilingual Speakers room

Fancy chatting without saying a single word? Ever been curious about Sign Language? After this workshop, you will not only have a better understanding about the Deaf Culture but you will also know how to fingerspell your own name, how to count and ask questions using only your hands and your face! What are you waiting for? Come and

learn a new fun, useful language that will give you access to a whole community you otherwise may not be able to communicate with. I assure you – it will come in “handy”!

Stefano Suigo



Stefano is a professional freelance translator and a language tutor from Italy. Raised in a completely monolingual environment, he's always loved foreign languages and made them part of his life. Today he's fluent in 7, intermediate in 3 and continuously taking on new challenges, currently working on Mandarin and Georgian. He holds degrees in Translation and Interpretation as well as in Applied Languages and Cultural Studies. He's lived in Brussels for about a decade now.

Recently, Stefano has started sharing his passion with fellow language enthusiasts by making videos on YouTube; his channel is called “linguaEpassione”.

Dizionario dei gesti dell'italiano

Italian, Saturday, 17:00–18:00, Vortoj room

Tutti sanno che gli italiani hanno la tendenza a “gesticolare” molto... Ma i loro gesti sono proprio tutti uguali o è forse possibile individuare diverse “categorie”? Ed esiste un codice universale dei gesti dell'italiano? In questo workshop informale e interattivo risponderemo a tutte queste domande e passeremo in rassegna il numero più alto possibile di gesti dell'italiano, esaminandone il significato a seconda del contesto e le (spesso sottili) differenze con altri gesti, nonché le eventuali corrispondenze in altre lingue e culture (ed è soprattutto qui che servirà anche il tuo contributo!). Alla fine, se il tempo a disposizione lo consente, potremo provare una o più “conversazioni tipo” senza aprire bocca, interamente a gesti! Lo scopo è quello di imparare l'italiano in un modo e sotto un profilo un po' diversi dal solito, ma soprattutto quello di divertirsi! The workshop is going to be entirely in Italian but an English (or any other language) “translation” of each gesture will also be given, if needed.

Tim Keeley



Tim Keeley is a professor of Cross-Cultural Management in Fukuoka Japan. He has spent the majority of his life in Asia (mainly Japan) but has also studied, lived and worked in such countries as Colombia, Switzerland, Poland, Germany, Thailand and Australia. Tim loves languages and cultures, as most polyglots do, and has channeled this passion into his research and lectures on the subjects of foreign language acquisition and cultural adaptation. He speaks most European languages (Slavic, Romance, Germanic, and Greek) as well as a dozen languages from Asia.

The potential effects of language switching on self-concept, values and personality expression – examining the evidence

English, Friday, 12:00–13:00, E@I room

Multicultural and multilingual individuals can be thought of as having multiple self-concepts or cultural/linguistic identities related to each of the distinct cultures and languages in which they have significant meaningful experience. Multicultural people

often need to navigate the different norms and values associated with their multiple cultural/linguistic identities. Hong et al. (2000) propose that multicultural individuals possess at least two “cultural frames” each based upon a corresponding set of cultural experiences and knowledge. Knowledge of two or more cultures and languages is stored in the minds of multicultural/multilingual individuals and knowledge of a particular culture is brought to the forefront when activated by priming agents such as cultural symbols, interacting with individuals from the culture in question and, importantly, engaging in the related languages. In turn, these cultural frames affect many phenomena such as personality, values, emotional expression and self-concept. Thus, it has been noted that multilingual/multicultural individuals may experience a change in perceptions, feelings, judgment, and behavior when switching from one linguistic/cultural context to another. This paper explores this phenomenon in depth.

Multiple languages in one brain – examining the executive function

English, Saturday, 12:00–13:00, E@I room

Executive functions are controlled by the frontal lobes of the brain. The frontal lobes are connected with many other brain areas and co-ordinate the activities of these other regions. They can be thought of as the conductor of the brain’s orchestra. The Executive function and self-regulation skills depend on three types of brain function: working memory, mental flexibility, and self-control. These functions are highly interrelated, and the successful application of executive function skills requires them to operate in coordination with each other.

Research on executive functions such as working memory, perception, and attentional and inhibitory control, has suggested that bilinguals (multilinguals) can benefit from significant cognitive advantages over monolingual peers in various settings. There are also age-related benefits, which seem to help older adults on the battle against cognitive decline.

This presentation examines the evidence concerning the effect of multilingualism on the development of the executive function. In addition, possible techniques on how to avoid mixing languages will also be covered.

Tim Morley



Tim Morley has been teaching English, French and Esperanto for 20 years. His 2012 TEDx talk about teaching Esperanto in state schools still draws viewers and comments, and his presentations at last year’s Polyglot Gathering were well received. He lives in Cambridge.

L’espéranto en 100 minutes

French, Friday, 11:00–13:00, Vortoj room

Alors, vous avez entendu parler de l’espéranto, mais vous n’avez jamais trouvé le temps de l’apprendre ? Voici l’occasion ! En commençant par « *Saluton* », vous allez découvrir ce qui différencie l’espéranto des autres langues et ce qui rend son apprentissage tellement plus rapide. C’est une session interactive. Vous pourrez écouter en silence si vous le souhaitez mais votre participation active sera la bienvenue.

Tobias Dickmeis



Tobias is the co-founder of the language exchange community Tandem (www.tandem.net). Since launching the Tandem mobile app in 2015, more than seven million members around the world have joined the community to practice 160 different languages together, including 12 sign languages. Both Apple and Google have given the Tandem app their prestigious “Best of the Year” awards.

The potentials and pitfalls of language exchange

English, Friday, 11:00–12:00, E@I room

A language exchange according to the Tandem method is a meeting of two partners who are learning each other’s native languages. They get together and split their time between speaking the two languages. It is particularly efficient towards improving verbal proficiency and achieving fluency. For a long time the method has been practiced almost exclusively at universities with an international student body. It usually required going down a somewhat cumbersome route to find a partner, like posting to bulletin boards. Thanks to mobile apps like Tandem that make it easier to find a partner and meet online in video chats, the method is on the rise, having found itself propelled from the offline into the online world, and from universities to everyone with a smartphone. I co-founded Tandem, and based on data from the Tandem community of 7 million members from around the world, I will talk about the factors that make a language exchange successful, and give practical tips on how to find a partner and make the most of a language exchange.

Tracy Mehoke



Tracy Mehoke is from the USA, used her math degree to teach English in China, created the online teacher team at italki.com, helped start Languagecon, launched Edtech Shanghai to bridge education, tech, and business, and is now combining science, AI, and language as a product manager at Saal.ai in the UAE. She spends a lot of time thinking about how to improve education companies through better representation of teachers, students, and real educational values.

The brave new world of online teaching

English, Saturday, 16:00–17:00, E@I room

I built and managed the italki team focused on supporting online teachers from 2014–2018, an exciting time as online teaching moved from something quite obscure toward becoming much more mainstream. I’d like to share some of my observations of the milestones, challenges, and opportunities for teachers in this growing language industry, and offer a glimpse of the future. This will be part presentation and part discussion, as I’d like to learn from those in attendance what challenges or opportunities they see, and what they need, no matter “where” they teach. I may not work at italki anymore, but I’m still looking for ways to support online teachers.

Urška Obreza



Urška Obreza graduated in romance philology at the University of Ljubljana, Slovenia and has a master's degree in Portuguese from the French university Lyon Lumière 2. She has spent one year in Coimbra, Portugal where she studied Portuguese as a foreign language. For her master's degree, she studied Brazilian indigenous contemporary literature which has led her to an exchange at the University of São Paulo in Brazil. Currently, Urška is working in digital marketing for a Slovenian international company, being responsible for French and Portuguese markets. She also teaches French, Portuguese and Slovene in Ljubljana.

Ascensão e queda da língua brasileira

Portuguese, Sunday, 15:00–16:00, Assimil room

Tupi era a língua mais falada na costa brasileira até 1500, quando os invasores portugueses lá chegaram. Dois séculos depois, 3 em cada 4 Brasileiros falavam tupi. Casamentos e relacionamentos entre colonizadores portugueses e mulheres tupi deram início a uma língua considerada a única e a verdadeira língua brasileira – a língua brasileira.

Hoje em dia, a língua tupi é vista como pré-histórica e distante da realidade brasileira por ser considerada uma língua indígena morta. No entanto, esta deixou um grande impacto no desenvolvimento do português do Brasil, tornando-se assim a língua indígena brasileira mais conhecida e estudada. Não obstante, muitas vezes por pura ignorância ou desinteresse, a presença e importância do tupi no português brasileiro passam muitas vezes despercebidas.

Juntos, veremos o percurso da língua brasileira, a herança do tupi na cultura brasileira e sua atual situação, bem como os lugares aonde é possível estudar e falar esta língua, e assim, talvez, compreender melhor o português único do Brasil.

Vladimír Moškvan



Vladimír has worked for The Sunday Times Wine Club and Znovín Znojmo for almost 25 years. He cooperated with Hugh Johnson on his *Pocket Wine Book* and he is a co-author of *Wine Words* (www.winewordsthebook.com). He is also a teacher and headmaster (www.chalabalova.cz) promoting innovative education and exchanges, and he organises international Dalton conferences.

Wine Words in several languages

English, Saturday, 17:00–18:00, Esperanto room

In my workshop I will use wine words from several languages and explain language of some wine labels from different appellations. Over a glass of wine we will talk about wines, wine acts and classification as well as matching food and wine.



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Cultural and special activities

This year's program offers dozens of really interesting talks, but given that this is a "gathering", we also want you to hang out with other participants and get to know more people. Therefore, we've prepared some special program items for you to make this simpler.

International culinary festival



a bazaar of different flavours. We'll provide paper and plastic plates, cups and cutlery so no need to bring that.

Thursday, 20:00, Esperanto room

Get ready to tickle your tastebuds! With different cultures come different foods and drinks, so this is your chance to try some of them – and present your own culture to others! All participants are asked to bring samples of snacks, sweets or drinks from their home country, particularly the kind that are hard to find abroad. Each country will get a table to present stuff on and the entire room will turn into

Polyglot karaoke



Let's sing in different languages! Perform solo or in a group and join Polyglot Karaoke. Contact us in advance to confirm the title and version of the song you want to sing.

Thursday, 21:30, Esperanto room

Polyglots have got talent



Limited spots available: contact us to get involved!

Saturday, 20:00, Esperanto room

Polyglots have many talents, want to share yours? "Polyglots Have Got Talent" is a friendly competition where you can show off your talent: Singing? Dancing? Juggling? Playing a musical instrument? Acting? This is not about being a professional but being passionate about the thing you want to present! And there will be small prizes for different categories: "best amateur performance", "best professional performance", "most engaging performance".

Icebreaker games, communicative language games and role-plays in different languages

Are you newcomer? Are you a Polyglot Gathering veteran but enjoy meeting new people? Come along! You will be participating in different icebreaker and communicative language games to get to know each other in a fun way. We will also perform role plays in different languages to have fun with the languages you know and even with the ones you know nothing about!

Wednesday, 15:00, Esperanto room

Interkona Speed Polyglotting

A fun and a very polyglotty way to get to know other participants! We will make two circles: an outside and an inside one, with the same number of people. You'll have 5 minutes to get to know the person in front of you, using all the languages you have in common.

Wednesday, 15:00, Esperanto room

Don't worry if you don't speak more than one or two, it will be even more fun to communicate with people you don't share a language with. (English can be the last resort). Then the outside circle moves one step clockwise and you will meet a new person, and so on.

Big Talk

Wednesday, 15:00, Esperanto room

Take 3 question strips in 3 different languages, each strip containing one question. Choose one question, look for someone who speaks the language of that question, ask them that question and discuss a few minutes. Then your partner will ask you one of their questions and you discuss a few minutes. Then swap the 2 used question strips and each one goes to look for someone else. Whenever possible, try to answer in the language of the question. If you don't know that language, your partner will help you to translate it in a common language (apart from English) and you can discuss in this other language.

Language hegemony in the world – any chance to avoid it?

Thursday, 10:00, Multilingual Speakers room

In 2005 Swiss economist Professor F. Grin calculated that the international dominance of English is responsible for financial transfers of €17-18 billion per year to the UK economy. It also confers a life-long, unearned privilege on native English speakers in all negotiations. This is a clearly unjust, but is there any way to avoid it? The recently-published French version of Professor R. Phillipson's *English-Only Europe?* raises many important issues. Why do people passively accept injustice, and why is language policy systematically ignored at political level? Come along, and bring some ideas!

This panel discussion is moderated by:

- Federico Gobbo – Full professor in Interlinguistics and Esperanto by special appointment at the University of Amsterdam;
- Dr Seán Ó Riain – Deputy Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the International Organisations in Vienna; Ph.D in Irish language policy; President of European Esperanto Union; polyglot;
- István Ertl – Translator, European Court of Auditors; Translator into Esperanto of R. Phillipson's "English-Only Europe?"; Board Member of Internacia Komitato por Etnaj Liberecoj (International Committee for Ethnic Freedoms);
- Mgr. Tomáš Šimo – Vice President UEF Slovakia.

Lightning talks

Saturday, 16:00; Sunday, 16:00, Multilingual Speakers room

Lightning talks are a chance for anyone to give a quick presentation (up to 5 minutes) about a topic they're interested in. So get ready for a quick succession of interesting tidbits. If you want to give a talk, just add your name to the list of speakers at the InfoPoint. You can show slides (but don't have to) – just make sure you send them as PDF 1 hour before the talk to georg.jaehnig@polyglotbratislava.com. And remember: 5 minutes max!

Yoga class

Friday, 9:00, Esperanto room

Come learn yoga with a teacher from India! Jaiwanti Singh works at the Indian embassy in Slovakia where she teaches yoga and presents Indian culture.

Language Challenges



Sunday, 16:00, Amikumu room

How much of a new language can a polyglot learn in 60 days? Let's find out! Some participants have decided to enter our language challenge in which they have been learning Esperanto or Hindi (or even both) in 60 days before the Gathering. Our juries will help us find out who has achieved the greatest improvement. Check out the Language Challenges

in the program (Sunday afternoon) and come to cheer for the brave participants who will show their skills.

Intercultural communication: do's and don'ts around the world

Wednesday, 20:30, Esperanto room

Something that is completely normal in one culture may be unacceptable or incomprehensible in another. Do you want to learn interesting do's and don'ts for different countries around the world? And what about gesture communication? This is a lively warm-up presentation followed by a discussion where you can share your own experience. Come along! Let's learn from each other!

Note: Speaking time is limited to 2 minutes per participant, have your story prepared!

Polyglot Games

Thursday, 21:30, Gufujo



The first day of the Polyglot Gathering is a perfect place for several fun games, such as:

- Polyglot Tonguetwister Contest 2019
- Polyglot Scrabble (for teams of 4-6 people): each new word must be in a different language.

Lightning talks evening

Thursday, 21:30, Vortoj room

A concise and fast-paced presentation style in which 22 slides are shown for 22 seconds each (8 minutes and 4 seconds in total). This is an interesting and lively multiple-speaker event. Choose your topic and share your passion and knowledge!

Presentations can be about any topic and of course about languages and cultures too!

Networking event

Friday, 20:00, Esperanto room

Do you have a business that you would like to grow? Are you looking for a business partner or people to collaborate with? Are you looking for new job opportunities or for inspiration? This event gives you the opportunity to get to know the participants from a different point of view and learn from each other.

You'll be able to participate in lots of different networking games and activities at this event. You will also have the opportunity to teach something about your business (e.g. how to write a book, how to increase your YouTube subscribers or Instagram following, your tips for success) or talk about a business topic that interests you.

Event participants will also be given a link to the “Complete Europe Language Jobs Employment Guide”, a fantastic tool for job seekers provided by Europe Language Jobs, a job board that connects talented multilingual individuals with great work opportunities across Europe.

Mini language crash courses: “Be the teacher!”

Sunday, 10:00, Vortoj room

Are you curious about languages you don't speak (yet)? Do you want to share your knowledge and teach us a language of your choice for 5-10 minutes? Be the teacher! Limited spots available (contact us!).

Come along to learn new languages and maybe teach the ones you know!

Vortoj – jump through languages!

Every day from 15:00 – 18:00, Gufujo, www.vortoj.net



Have fun “jumping” through the languages you have and haven't learnt!

Vortoj is the game you haven't heard of but should have, boasting 8 natural and 6 constructed languages. Played with dance pads where you've got to have your wits about you as you step on the arrows depending on whether the word is correct, wrong or non-existent.

Strive for the highest score for your chance to win a prize at the end of PG2019.

Gufujo



If you would like to enjoy your evenings in a calmer atmosphere than the social program offers, feel free to come to the Gufujo area (see the venue map). Gufujo is a quiet tea-room where people can talk or play some games, but without getting loud. Please note that alcohol is forbidden in the Gufujo area. Gufujos are very popular in Esperanto events, as they offer a great opportunity to chill out and be social in a calmer way.

Coffee breaks



All talks start on the full hour (10:00, 11:00 etc.) and end at 15 to. In the 15 minute breaks between talks there will be fresh coffee and tea prepared for you in the Esperanto room.

Game zone



Do you fancy board games? Then the game zone will be your favourite place at the venue! There will be some boardgames ready for you, but you can also bring your own games and teach others how to play them. Stop by in the red area in the entrance hall and join in a game with other Gathering participants any time during the whole Gathering.

No-English Zone



Why are so many talks at the Polyglot Gathering delivered in English? Why is this program book in English?? Why do most participants first address you in English?? If you have asked yourself these questions, then you should definitely check out the No-English Zone right outside the university! Anyone is welcome to come there and join the others, but... man darf halt kein Englisch benutzen! Es una zona sin inglés, alors ne parle pas en anglais, nie przedstawiaj się po angielsku, ne demandu en la angla, non cantare in inglese, не рассказывайте анекдоты на английском языке, skráttka, tu je angličtina zakázaná. :) Also, this is our unofficial picnic area of the Polyglot Gathering. Yes, with hammocks! Also, we hope you appreciate our effort this year to support no-English talks in the program :)

Book-crossing



If you have any language-related books (or just books in whatever language) that you don't need any more, bring them to the Bookcrossing table, and feel free to take whichever other book you like. It is not based on a give-one-take-one principle, we all give and/or take, so just have a look at what others have already offered.

Aligatorejo – Practice languages



Thursday, 9:00; Sunday, 10:00, Esperanto room

In Esperanto the word *krokodili* (“to crocodile”) means speaking in an Esperanto environment in your mother tongue, and the word *aligatori* (“to alligator”) means speaking in an Esperanto environment in a language that is neither Esperanto nor your mother tongue. Both actions should normally be avoided, because probably other people will not understand you. So *aligatorejo* is a place organised in Esperanto festivals to practice other languages. At the Polyglot Gathering, the most spoken language will be probably English, so you can come to the Aligatorejo to alligator with other polyglots practising many languages, except English and your mother tongue(s).

Polyglot picnic

Monday, 10:00



Are you leaving Bratislava on Monday or later? Then you should join us for our common picnic on Monday, starting at 10 am. Everybody brings their own food, drinks, and something to sit on, and we can enjoy our last hours together. You can bring your luggage and leave for your planes, trains or buses directly from the picnic area.

The location is the same as the previous year – Medická záhrada (Medical garden), en Špitálska street 2181/57, nearby the main bus station.

Trips

This year, the Polyglot Gathering is not happening just in the Gathering premises but also in all of Bratislava and even Slovakia! We have prepared interesting trips for you which are happening either during the Gathering or right after. The trips are only for those who signed up for them in their registration. If you have, see the meeting points and times below.

3 countries trip

Wednesday, 8:45 – 18:00

Bratislava is the only capital city directly bordering two other countries. The history of the city is inextricably linked with those two countries – Austria and Hungary. Hop onto our polyglot bus and join our local guide Peter for a full day of exploring three countries in one day! The Hungarian town Mosonmagyaróvár and the Austrian Hainburg await us with their medieval charm, their rich history and delicious treats. Let's stop for lunch at a traditional Hungarian csárda and enjoy Austrian-style Melange coffee while watching the mighty Danube flow past. We will explore a medieval castle and finish our trip in a tiny and unique wine region for a taste of local wines before heading back to Bratislava just in time for dinner and the opening ceremony!

Meeting point: in front of the main entrance of the University, 8:30 am.

Walking tours



If Bratislava was a person, she would be a polyglot! Throughout its past, Bratislava was buzzing with the sounds of German, Hungarian, Slovak, Yiddish and many other languages. Located in the place where the wide Hungarian plains meet the Carpathian mountains and the mighty river Danube, the city has been a place where cultures and languages meet since the times of the ancient Celts, Germans and Romans.

Because there is so much to see in Bratislava, we are offering not one, but two walking tours. They are conveniently timed in such a way that it is possible to participate in both – one after the other! You can choose from the following:

Castle & history

Thursday and Sunday, 14:00 – 16:00

Bratislava Castle is probably the most iconic building in the city. It has been here in some shape or form for over two millennia. This, together with the magnificent views it offers, makes it a perfect spot to delve into the rich history of Bratislava.

This tour includes a hike up to Bratislava castle and focuses on telling the story of this unique city from ancient times until today. If you would like to learn why Bratislava is the way it is, then this is the tour for you!

At the end of the Castle & History Tour, there will be time to relax and drink some lemonade at a quiet, hidden spot next to the medieval city walls before the next tour starts.

Meeting point: in front of the main entrance of the University, 14:00 (2:00 pm).

City & current life

Thursday and Sunday, 16:00 – 18:00

This is the fun & easy tour! Both when it comes to walking (no climbing the castle hill!) and the topics covered. With the history of Bratislava already told on the Castle & History Tour, this walk is free to focus on today.

Expect to learn about current affairs, local customs and get plenty of tips on where to go and what to do in Bratislava!

This tour explores the historic center of Bratislava with a focus on local sights, restaurants, cafes and other places of interest. It finishes with a transfer via public transport back to the Economic University.

Meeting point: in front of the main entrance of the University, 15:30 (3:30 pm), or in front of hotel Park Inn downtown at 16:00 (4:00 pm) if continuing from previous tour.

Bratislava night walk (castle)



Thursday and Sunday, 19:30 – 21:15

This walk is aimed at those who would like to go for a walk after straining their brains inside of the conference building all day long.

Our local guide will take you up to the castle, where you can listen to a few easy stories about Bratislava's past & present while watching the sunset in the background. This walk won't go as in depth into the history of Bratislava as the Castle & History Walking Tour, it's more about

relaxing after a long day, having fun and getting to know each other.

To top it all off, we will finish in a place with several legendary pubs. Known to the locals as the "devil's triangle", many a night and memory was lost in alcoholic reverie here and you can look forward to a truly local experience – tourists don't know how to find the devil's triangle!

Meeting point: in front of the main entrance of the University, 19:30 (7:30 pm).

Bratislava night walk (city)

Friday, 19:30 – 21:15

This walk is aimed at those who would like to go for a walk after straining their brains inside of the conference building all day long.

During the day, Bratislava is a polite lady. Groups of tourists roam the streets, marveling at the collection of romantic houses and baroque palaces. Locals enjoy a cold drink at one of the dozens of terraces in front of a wide variety of pubs and ice cream vendors are busy selling their sweet temptations.

But during the night, the city transforms into a seductive mistress, luring you into her intoxicating embrace with bright lights and a bohemian atmosphere!

Come and discover the nightlife of Bratislava with our local guide Michal! He will make sure to point out some of the most interesting and fun pubs and restaurants and entertain you with stories of nighttime mischief and adventures! And of course at the end of the walk, we can all sit down and relax at one of Bratislava's most iconic pubs, where you can get good Slovak food and admire the jaw-dropping interior design dating back to the 19th century!

Meeting point: in front of the main entrance of the University, 19:30 (7:30 pm).

Devín trip



Friday and Saturday, 13:30 – 18:30

At the confluence of the rivers Danube and Morava, there sits an ancient castle overlooking the plains to the west. Perched atop a steep cliff, flanked by the two rivers on one side and by the Carpathian mountains on the other, this spot has been of vital importance for millenia.

Devín castle is a symbol of national pride for Slovak people, but history and stunning views are not all it has to offer! A microclimate especially

suitable for wine-making surrounds the castle and makes Devín home to a variety of white wine also called “Devín”. It is also the home of an endemic type of wine made from the fruits of the red and black currant plants.

Join our half-day trip to Devín castle and see the place where once the iron curtain divided East from West. Listen to medieval stories of war and intrigue and finish the tour with a wine tasting of red and black currant wine in the shadow of the most famous castle in Slovakia!

Meeting point: in front of the main entrance of the University, 13:30 (1:30 pm).

Svätý Jur hike + wine tasting



Monday, 9:30 – 16:00

Just outside of Bratislava, on the southern slopes of the Carpathian mountain range, we can find the wine-producing town of Svätý Jur. For centuries, terraces of vineyards have been rising right outside its medieval city walls. Providing magnificent views of the southern plains, these

vineyards are home to some of the best wines Slovakia has to offer.

First, a hike through local vineyards and forests will bring us to the ruins of a medieval castle called “Biely kameň”. After listening to stories about the castle and the town beneath it, we will have included lunch at a local restaurant.

In the afternoon we will climb the terraces of vineyards and have an unforgettable wine tasting right where the grapes are grown, guided by a local winemaker with decades of wine-growing experience – can you imagine a better finish the the Polyglot Gathering 2019?

Meeting point: in front of the main entrance of the University, 9:30 am.

Recommendations

There is something for everyone in Bratislava. No matter if it's food, wine, beer, coffee or clubbing you're after – we've got you covered with this list of recommendations compiled by our local tour guide Michal from Green Hat Tours.

Food

Bratislava has a growing and thriving food scene with new restaurants opening up every month. There is something for everyone's taste buds to be found here. Just be aware that Slovak waiters can sometimes be a bit unfriendly and there is a fair share of tourist traps to be found as well. As a general rule, avoid any restaurant or pub with the word "Slovak" in it – usually you will find sub-par food for above average prices there. Stick with this list of recommendations instead or ask the locals where they like to eat!

SLOVAK FOOD: Koliba Kamzík, Zelená ulica 5



A Slovak restaurant with a traditional interior inspired by central Slovak *koliba* cottages. Here you will find folk music playing and waiters/waitresses dressed up in folk costumes, ready to bring you typical Slovak dishes. Slovak cuisine is simple, yet hearty and filling. Our top traditional ingredient is *bryndza* – a type of fermented sheep cheese. Get the garlic soup, or our national food *bryndzové halušky* – a type of

potato gnocchi with sheep cheese and bacon on top.

REGIONAL FOOD: Prašná Bašta (The powder tower), Zámocnícka ulica 11

Located in what used to be the powder tower – a part of medieval city fortifications used to store gunpowder, this stylish restaurant is one which tourists often overlook because of how hidden it is. It is a traditional Bratislava restaurant in that it offers an overlap of Slovak, Hungarian and Austrian cuisine. Get the grilled goat cheese with caramelized pear as a starter and continue with an authentic “Wiener Schnitzel” or the grilled trout filled with herbs and almonds. Consider the Hungarian Somló cake for desert. Whatever you order here, you won't go wrong!

VEGAN FOOD: Balans Bistro, Živnostenská ulica 2



Bratislava has a growing scene of vegetarian and vegan food. This place opened just a year ago but already you need a reservation if you want to have dinner or even lunch here. You can get your fill of delicious vegan treats in a cozy atmosphere here. Go for one of their fantastic burgers with fries & salad or try the burrito and wash it down with their lemonades or one of the local craft beers they offer.

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE: Re:refresh, Ventúrska Ulica 5

This place prides itself for being to cater to everyone, meat lover and vegan alike. Combined with a club in the basement, this is the place to hang out at for lunch or dinner, sit in the terrace and watch life go by while enjoying well-made food. Try whatever they have on offer as lunch menu for a Slovak lunch experience, or go for a burger and some local craft beers in the evening.

Coffee

Bratislava has been veritably exploding with coffee places recently so it is hard to make a selection. Here is a brief overview of some places worth considering:

CAKE SHOP ZEPPELIN: Sedlárska ulica



Located in one of the busiest streets downtown, this charming place offers a wide selection of cakes, local pastries (try the Bratislava rolls!), good coffee and even a selection of souvenirs. Great place for people watching while enjoying your coffee.

HISTORIC KONDITOREI KORMUTH: Sedlárska ulica

This upscale place welcomes you with a wax figurine of Maria Theresa a “wait to be seated” sign and the rather steep price of 10 euro for a coffee and cake. Is it worth it? Take a peek inside and decide for yourself – the interior with its vaulted ceilings decorated in 18th century fashion and enriched by portraits of famous people connected with Bratislava make it a truly unique place to feel like a noble lord or lady during baroque times.

MONDIEU: Panská ulica 27 AND Laurinská ulica 1

This franchise offers a chic interior and a wide selection of coffee, cakes and interesting food options. Foodies and coffee connoisseurs alike will be puzzling over the wide range of choices while the easier to please are already enjoying their cappuccino and watching life go by in the busy streets of downtown Bratislava.

Beer

The craft beer revolutions has arrived in Bratislava several years ago and now it seems that a new beer pub is popping up every day. Slovakia is fast approaching the magical number of 100 breweries and with centuries of beer-making expertise under their belt, Slovak brewmasters are able to boast some fantastic and delicious brews! Here is a selection of the best places to have a great beer for a good price.

ŽIL VERNE & UNORTHODOX BREWING: Panská ulica 13

These are actually two distinct craft beer pubs located inside the ground floor of an 18th century palace. The first place gets its name from a play on words with the name of French writer Jules Verne and the interior is decorated with scenes from his books. Here you will find a selection of local and regional craft beers and some typical beer snacks. The opposite wing of the palace is occupied by Unorthodox Brewing, where you can find a more international and experimental selection of beers. Beers cost about 3-4 euro.

STUPAVAR: Prepoštská ulica 4



This no nonsense punk rock craft beer pub located in a historic building from the 15th century is packed full with locals each evening. The good news is that even if there are no free seats, you can just stand around in the hallways with your beer, almost like riding a crowded bus during rush hour. The beers are all by the local Stupavar brewery and ridiculously cheap, considering the location of the pub. A selection of typical beer snacks is available. Stupavar is perhaps the best place to mingle with locals and make new friends! Try their half-dark lager called “Jantar” or one of their IPAs!

STAROMEŠTIANSKA PIVOTÉKA: Gunduličova ulica 4

This is the place for dedicated beer lovers. A little off the beaten path and with a hard to remember name, this is where local beer enthusiasts go to indulge in their passion. With 10 beers on tap, mostly of local production, and a selection of typical beer food and snacks, prepare to spend some quality hopped up time here! Pro-tip: get the beer tasting menu of all 10 beers with a friend. Drink 5 each and then get one more to get the full overview of the selection while avoiding your beers getting flat and warm!

STEINPLATZ: Kamenné námestie

Located in the middle of one of Bratislava’s biggest squares in what used to be underground public toilets, this bizarrely decorated place is as unique as it gets. With a terrace available and the underground part open until 4 AM, their selection of 10 beers on tap will no doubt satisfy your thirst no matter your taste! Try their very own “Einstein” Red IPA!

FOR ALCOHOL ADVENTURERS: Zbrojnoš pub, Michalská ulica 22

Next to Michael’s gate stands an artillery cannon. Enter the pub next to it to find yourself in a cool, stone basement type place which has seen plenty of rough nights play out to the sounds of heavy rock music. Continue deeper into the pub to find an underlit scoreboard on the wall with numbers next to the flags of various countries. Below the flags you see an ominous writing... “Still standing after 10”. Order the challenge and receive 10 shots of different types of alcohol. If you are still standing at the end of the challenge, you get a T-shirt and score a point for your country on the board. Do you have what it takes?

Wine



Bratislava has a 2000 year old wine making tradition started by the Romans who once used the Castle hill as a military outpost. Wine production is concentrated on the southern slopes of the Little Carpathians starting in Bratislava and is home to some delicious white wine varieties.

GRAND CRU WINE GALLERY: Zámočnická ulica 8

This is one of the places where the owner and personnel make all the difference. You can find wines from the surrounding regions and a friendly and helpful staff which will help you make a choice just right for your taste, no matter if you are a total beginner in wine tasting, or a seasoned pro.

PINOT U BRUNA: Rudnayovo námestie 2

This cozy place hidden away behind the gothic cathedral offers escape from the hustle and bustle of the city and pairs it with a great selection of regional wines and typical wine snacks. You won't find too many tourists here, because they usually can't find it!

Clubs**KC DUNAJ:** Nedbalova 3

This club is located in what once was the only shopping mall during communist times. Situated on the 4th floor, it boasts a massive balcony with fantastic views of nighttime Bratislava. Depending on the day, you can find various concerts here at their stage or you can just hang out at the bar and enjoy their fine selection of beers, wines and cocktails. Great place to meet local people as well. Frequenting by a young, alternative and stylish crowd.

SUBCLUB: Nábřežie armádneho generála Ludvíka Svobodu (below the castle from Danube side)

A dance club in a bomb shelter. What more needs to be said? Home to a crowd of dedicated clubbers you can expect to find Drum'n'Bass, Trance or other types of electronic music here. Go here to dance your night away in an unique environment!

TANKER CLUB: Nábřežie armádneho generála Ludvíka Svobodu (below the castle from Danube side)

Bratislava's first party boat! Located a 5 minute walk upstream from the UFO bridge, this boat has a capacity of 400 people on the top deck and a further 400 people inside the lower deck. Depending on the day, you can find a wide variety of music being played here, ranging from Reggae to Hip-Hop and Electronic music.

BEHIND THE CURTAIN OF THE POLYGLOT GATHERING

This might not be your first Polyglot Gathering or your first international event for language lovers (such as the Polyglot Conference or LangFest). You may be wondering **who actually organises something like this, how and why**. So we'd like to lift the curtain of the event for you a bit and share what this is all about.

Polyglot Gathering, as well as similar polyglot events, are **organised mainly by volunteers** who find it great that like-minded people can meet for a couple of days, exchange their know-how and just have a good time. The Polyglot Gathering was first organised by **Judith Meyer, Chuck Smith and Martin Sawitzki**, a group of friends, language enthusiasts, who liked the Polyglot Conference and wanted more of that type of event. In 2017, we took over (Peter Baláž from E@I and Lýdia Machová from Language Mentoring) because Judith, Chuck and Martin were busy doing other cool projects.

Organising this event **does not have any financial motivation on the part of the organisers**. Whatever money is left from the Gatherings, is used for non-profit language projects that the non-profit E@I (Edukado@Interreto) does (see the next page for more info) and also to organise a language festival called LingvaFest' (www.lingvafest.sk) for thousands of Slovaks in September (again, as a non-profit event, with free entrance).

Nevertheless, it is **a great amount of work** to organise a 5-day event for 600+ participants, and it takes about half a year and is the joint work of many volunteers and endless hours of their time (e.g. finding the right premises, putting together the program of 100 speakers, making sure everyone gets the meals they wanted (with the right vouchers), organise the trips outside of the program, order T-shirts, badges, bags, print the sticker flags, communicate with the sponsors, make sure noone has paid too much or too little, prepare the social program with guests, keep the website and the social networks active, answer dozens of emails every week and much more... Our great thanks goes to the whole organising team!). Besides, being an organiser of such an event brings a huge legal and financial responsibility that the main organisers take upon themselves if anything should go wrong...

We are happy to do all this because it makes sense to us. Because this community of language lovers is a great one and we want to keep it alive. If there's something you find great, we're happy if you let us know. If there's something that you found not perfect, we also appreciate your feedback so we can improve next time, but also welcome your understanding, given that **this is almost all done on a volunteer basis in our free time**. The Polyglot Gathering is an event from language lovers for language lovers. Thank you for being part of it and making it so awesome! :)



ABOUT E@I



Education@Internet is an international youth organization based in Slovakia, which hosts volunteers from a variety of countries in the scope of EVS (European Voluntary Service). The organization paints the vision of a harmonious world which offers easy, efficient and effective means of communication with no limits, as such the organization strives to create, maintain and develop portals, projects, events as well as websites which support and strengthen people's understanding of the multicultural world we live in and the thereby

connected linguistic issues, as well as language learning portals and sites strengthening linguistic awareness.

Esperanto is the official office language, yup, you read that right, it is the organization's belief that a fully neutral language, which is complete, hence can be applied and used in all areas of modern life and is also easy to learn regardless of L1 (speaker's first language), is the way onwards. You are likely to hear people from E@I communicate in Esperanto at the event.

The projects of the organization more often than not carry a linguistic goal but also look at Internet related issues, were you, for example to visit Slovake.eu, Russky.info, Mluvtecesky.net, Deutsch.info or soon Polski.info, you'd be presented with a free online course of the respective language, the websites are available in a number of languages and offer materials that can be readily used by teachers. In addition there is also Lernu! (lernu.net), an Esperanto course. Last but not least is Lingvo.info, a website which looks at languages, informs about the existing online courses and shows that languages can be both useful and fun.

Ever since 2013, E@I has hosted volunteers from numerous European countries – from Italy to Russia, from Sweden to Georgia, thanks to the EVS program of Erasmus+.

“In E@I we believe in free and accessible education – and we make it happen – quick and easy!”



Is this the end of the Polyglot Gathering? It may be, but don't worry, language lovers meet in other cool places too! This year (2019), you can meet many of the friends you've made in Bratislava, if you come:

- to Nitra, Slovakia on July 12-20 for Summer Esperanto Study (ses.ikso.net);
- to Montréal, Canada on August 23-25 for LangFest (langfest.org);
- back to Bratislava on September 26-27 for LingvaFest' (lingvafest.sk);
- to Fukuoka, Japan on October 18-20 for the Polyglot Conference (polyglotconference.com).

Don't forget to share the polyglot love for languages, and hopefully, see you next year at another Polyglot Gathering... possibly somewhere else!



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