

Language on the Move Reading Challenge 2019 - Language on the Move

By Ingrid Piller



Shelves in the Martha-Muchow-Library of Education at Hamburg University

After [a busy 2018 and a relaxing break](#), *Language on the Move* is back for another year of sociolinguistics of intercultural communication, language learning, and multilingualism in contexts of migration and globalization. After the success of last year's [Language on the Move Reading Challenge 2018](#), we'll start the excitement with yet another reading challenge.

As was the case last year, the *Language on the Move Reading Challenge 2019* is designed to encourage broad reading in the discipline and to make linguistics reading fun. It is aimed at anyone with an interest in the relationship between linguistic diversity and social life.

Here is how it works: the challenge will run from February to November, and the challenge is to commit yourself to reading one item in each of the categories below. Team members at Macquarie will undertake the reading challenge as part of their weekly meetings. Others can commit publicly by pledging in the comments below or they can keep their participation to themselves.

One piece of feedback we received from last year's [Language on the Move Reading Challenge 2018](#) was that participants had difficulties selecting a reading in each category, that they spent more time on selecting than reading, or that they were disappointed in their choices. Therefore, this year each category includes one or more suggested readings. You may simply follow the suggestion or choose a different reading within the set category.

February

Anthropological linguist Alexandra “Misty” Jaffe passed away in November 2018. She will be sadly missed and [an obituary is available here](#). Her paper “Poeticizing the economy: The Corsican language in a nexus of pride and profit” was in production with *Multilingua* at the time of her death, as part of a special issue devoted to “[Re-Imagining Language Revitalization in Contemporary Europe](#)” (guest-edited by Sabina Perrino and Andrea Leone-Pizzighella). The publisher, deGruyter Mouton, has made the paper freely available as a tribute to Misty, and I suggest you start this year’s Reading Challenge with this paper, and maybe (re)read some of Misty’s other publications.

Suggestion

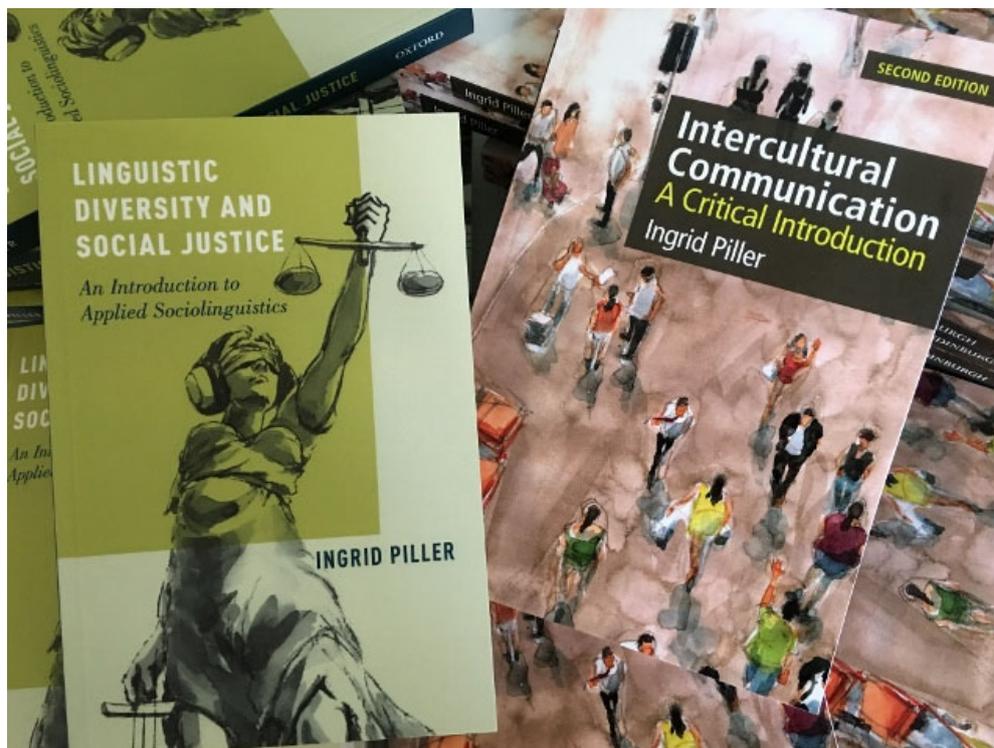
Jaffe, A. (2019). Poeticizing the economy: The Corsican language in a nexus of pride and profit. *Multilingua*, 38 (1), 9-27. [doi:10.1515/multi-2018-0005](https://doi.org/10.1515/multi-2018-0005) [open access]

March

A book about language policy in a migration context.

Suggestion

Salomone, R. C. (2010). *True American: Language, identity, and the education of immigrant children*. Boston, MA: Harvard University Press.



Reading Challenge or not ... always a good read 😊

April

A book about intercultural communication, language learning, and multilingualism in a legal context.

Suggestion

Angermeyer, P. S. (2015). *Speak English or What? Codeswitching and Interpreter Use in New York City Courts*. New York and Oxford: Oxford University Press.

May

A book about intercultural communication, language learning, and multilingualism in early childhood.

Suggestion

Benz, V. (2017). *Bilingual Childcare: Hitches, Hurdles and Hopes*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters.

You might wish to complement this with the following paper, which is available open access:

Piller, I., & Gerber, L. (2018). Family language policy between the bilingual advantage and the monolingual mindset. *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism*, 1-14. [doi:10.1080/13670050.2018.1503227](https://doi.org/10.1080/13670050.2018.1503227)

June

A longitudinal ethnography about intercultural communication, language learning, and multilingualism in the context of migration and globalization. These are as rare as hens' teeth and the two suggested titles are the only ones I am aware of. So, let's read both.

Suggestion

Farr, M. (2006). *Rancheros in Chicagoacán: Language and Identity in a Transnational Community*. Austin, TX: University of Texas Press.

Zentella, A. C. (1997). *Growing up Bilingual: Puerto Rican Children in New York*. Oxford: Blackwell.

July

For the Northern Hemisphere summer holidays: a novel where intercultural communication, language learning, and multilingualism are central themes.

Suggestion

Adichie, C. N. (2013). *Americanah*. London: HarperCollins.

August

UNESCO has declared [2019 the Year of Indigenous Languages](#). This means a reading about indigenous languages will have to go on your list. My recommendation is based on what was, for me, [the highlight of last year's Reading Challenge](#).

Suggestion

Adejunmobi, M. (2004). *Vernacular Palaver: Imaginations of the Local and Non-native Languages in West Africa*. Clevedon: Multilingual Matters.



And don't forget to add some children's books to your readings this year!

September

By September, my annual Literacies class for postgraduate students at Macquarie University will be in full swing and so the challenge will be to read a book about literacy and the politics of knowledge.

Suggestion

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o (2012). *Globalectics: Theory and the Politics of Knowing*. New York: Columbia University Press.

October

An autobiography of a multilingual writer. Having started on Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o in September and keeping [the Year of Indigenous Languages](#) in mind, continue the challenge with his two memoirs with their focus on the politics of language in colonial Kenya.

Suggestion

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o (2010). *Dreams in a time of war: a childhood memoir*. New York et al.: Random House.

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o (2012). *In the house of the interpreter: a memoir*. New York et al.: Random House.

November

In November we'll be hosting the conference of the Australian and New Zealand Associations of von Humboldt Fellows at Macquarie University. The theme is *Sharing Knowledge in the Spirit of Humboldt*. 2019 is also Humboldt's 250th anniversary. Therefore, the final reading of the *Language on the Move Reading Challenge 2019* will have to be about the extraordinary multilingual polymath Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859).

Suggestion

Wulf, A. (2015). *The invention of nature: Alexander von Humboldt's new world*. New York: Alfred Knopf.

Share your progress

We invite Reading Challenge participants to submit reviews of their readings to *Language on the Move*, and we'll consider them for publication. For ideas check out the review posts which were written as part of the [Language on the Move Reading Challenge 2018](#):

- Yining Wang, [Being Chinese in Australia](#)
- Pia Tenedero, [Virtually multilingual](#)
- Ingrid Piller, [In search of myself](#)
- Laura Smith-Khan, [In search of a language and an identity](#)
- Gegentuul Baioud, [One orientalism or many orientalisms?](#)
- Ingrid Piller, [Why are you not citing any African female expert?](#)
- Ingrid Piller, [The Devil's Handwriting](#)
- Ingrid Piller, [Globalization between crime and piety](#)

Another way to share your progress is to tweet about it. If you do, mention [@lg_on_the_move](#) as we will occasionally be gifting copies of [Intercultural Communication](#) and [Linguistic Diversity and Social Justice](#) to one of our interactive followers throughout the year.

Research and knowledge need linguistic diversity

Before you get started, enjoy this multilingual video, which the Language-on-the-Move team produced to celebrate Humboldt's 250th anniversary. For us, Humboldt today means linguistic diversity in research, science and education.

Can you identify all the languages spoken in the video?*

*Other than the obvious English, they are, in this order: Tagalog, Ga, French, Arabic, Mandarin, Persian, Ndebele, Urdu, Cantonese, German