

## Information for Attendees (in person or online)

LEAP Postgraduate Conference, 24-26 June 2026, University of Aberdeen

# Aberdeen's second International PGR conference on Language Education, Acquisition & Policy 2026

Keynote Speakers:

**Dr Elsa Petit, Queen Mary University of London**

**Dr Sultan Turkan, Queen's University Belfast**

Each year, hundreds of students across the globe start their PhD journey to help shape the conversations on language education, acquisition, and policy through their doctoral research. Some of their contributions will directly impact the ways languages are taught and learned in their home countries; other contributions will go far beyond and affect the international community. To facilitate knowledge exchange and networking among PhD students working in these areas, the Centre of Training and Research in Linguistics is inviting PGRs (Postgraduate Research students) from across the United Kingdom and beyond to join us for a three-day *hybrid* conference at the University of Aberdeen. LEAP 2026 will serve to connect emerging scholars and help them in the planning of their next career move, with keynote talks from Dr Elsa Petit and Dr Sultan Turkan, as well as career workshops led by staff at Language & Linguistics in Aberdeen. **A preliminary programme can be found on the next page.**

### Attendance Certificate

All attendees will receive a certificate of attendance.

### Publication Opportunity

Proceedings from the previous LEAP conference were published in: *Granite* Vol. 10, Issue 2 — *Special Issue: Advancing Research in Language Education, Acquisition, and Policy* (2026). *Granite* is the University of Aberdeen's postgraduate open-access interdisciplinary journal. You can read the previous conference proceedings at: <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/pgrc/development/journal/>

### In-person Attendance

The conference will take place at College Bounds CB009, King's College, University of Aberdeen

### Online Attendance

Participants attending online will be emailed a Microsoft Teams meeting link before the conference.

### Contact Information

For enquiries, please contact the Centre for Training and Research in Linguistics at: [ctrl@abdn.ac.uk](mailto:ctrl@abdn.ac.uk)

### Registration and Payment

- Participants can register and complete payment through the University of Aberdeen online store: <https://www.store.abdn.ac.uk/conferences-and-events/events/school-of-language-and-literature> (Online attendance: £20, In-person attendance: £40)

## Preliminary conference program

### *Language Education*

- Beyond the classroom: folk approaches to learning through intergenerational knowledge transmission in the context of Bangladesh (Md. Bakebillah, University of Aberdeen)
- Lingua Franca or Linguistic Empire? Rethinking Global English through Critical Pedagogy (Sachin Wanniarachchi, University of Ottawa)
- The Predictive Power of Grit, Academic Buoyancy, and Motivational Self-Guides in Perceived L2 Proficiency (Gülay Şahin, Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University and Filiz Rızaoğlu, Pamukkale University)
- Translanguaging Practices in Multilingual EFL Classrooms: A Sociolinguistic Study of Learner Engagement and Classroom Interaction (Zakrea Salek, University of Delhi)
- Teaching Without Fear: Using AI Speaking Tools to Reduce Anxiety and Build Confidence Among Language Teachers (Anar H. AlRuwaie, University of Aberdeen)
- Exploring a Chinese model of promoting creativity in EFL classrooms (Zhewei Zha, U of Aberdeen)
- Developing awareness of native-speakerism: A duoethnographic exploration of ‘non-native’ English teachers’ identity and emotions. (Zhewei Zha, U of Aberdeen and Paolo Delogu, U of Glasgow)
- English Language Teachers’ Professional Identity and Possible Selves (Gülay Şahin, Muğla Sıtkı Koçman University, and Turan Paker, Pamukkale University)
- The Impact of Contextual Noise and Psycho-Physical States on Semantic Clarity in Higher Education: A Linguistic Study of Professor-Student Interaction (Manal Muneef, University of Aberdeen)
- Artificial Intelligence and Oral Production in SLA: Effects of the ImmerseMe Platform on Complexity, Accuracy, and Fluency among Saudi EFL University Students (Abdulrahman Almurayyi, U of Aberdeen)
- The perception of Technology Mediated Task Based Language Teaching in higher education institutions across the Kurdistan Region of Iraq by English Module Lecturers (Bestun Khidhir, U of Aberdeen)

### *Language Acquisition*

- First Language Attrition: The Case of Dutch Posture Verbs (Wieteke Windrich,
- Research design of the relationship between language socialisation and translanguaging among mature Immigrants from China to Britain (IFCB) women (Ziqi Cao, University of Leeds)
- Dynamic Development of Complexity in L2 Oral Proficiency: A Longitudinal Case Study from a CDST Perspective, University of Aberdeen)
- Lessons from place names, personal names, and substrate Brittonic words in Old Gaelic for Pictish phonology

### *Language Policy*

- Diachronic Shifts in the Representation of Women’s Empowerment in Saudi Arabic and English Newspaper Discourse Pre- and Post-Vision 2030: A Corpus-Assisted Discourse Study (Kholoud Alzhrani, University of Aberdeen)
- Béarnais and the Heritage Paradox: Symbolic Value and Everyday Use (Hajna McGrath, Maynooth University)
- Who Decides the Home Language? Children’s Agency in Family Language Policy among Mixed-Heritage Interlingual Families (Yujun Wu, University of Auckland)
- Visibility Is Not Equity: Gendered Career Scripts in Chinese EFL Textbooks and a Critical Language Awareness Response (Lexiao Li, University of Exeter)
- Navigating Language Policy in Kuwait’s Higher Education: A Delphi-Based Approach to Context-Sensitive EMI Scenarios (Rana Khan, Canadian College Kuwait, University of Bath)