

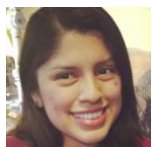
Cultivating Early Multilingualism: A Global View of Advocacy and Research

Thursday, February 25

11am EST / 5pm CET / 6pm SAST

[Free registration](#)

The Department of Romance and Classical Studies and the Second Language Studies Program at Michigan State University are pleased to welcome Johanna Barrantes, Isabelle Barth, Annick De Houwer, and Lisa Treffry-Goatley for a panel discussion on their association work, research, and advocacy in early multilingualism and multilingual education. The panel will be held on **Thursday, February 25 at 11am EST/5pm CET/6pm SAST** on Zoom, where speakers will discuss their association work and research in the European, South African, and U.S. contexts. Time will be reserved at the end for audience engagement through comments and questions. Those interested can follow this [link](#) to register for free or contact Meagan Driver at driverme@msu.edu to receive the Zoom link.



Johanna Barrantes is an educator and community leader with over ten years of experience inside and outside the classroom and formerly the director of operations at the DC Language Immersion Project ([DC Immersion](#)) - a nonprofit organization that worked to increase access to multilingual education in K-12 public schools. She started her career as a Spanish teacher and has participated as a founding team member of several startups including, enrichment programs and media companies.

Dr. Isabelle Barth is a linguist, specialised in plurilingual education. She started her career as a language lecturer and a translator. Her areas of expertise are (family and European) language policy, didactics of languages, language acquisition and teacher's training. She now focuses her researches on the relationships between schools and the plurilingual families. Her non-profit association [Multilingual Café](#) is a training and research centre that aims at creating awareness on the importance of child plurilingualism and at promoting multilingualism in education and society.



Annick De Houwer, Ph.D., is Professor of Language Acquisition and Multilingualism at the University of Erfurt, Germany and a pioneering researcher on bilingual children's language development. Dr. De Houwer directs the Harmonious Bilingualism Network, [HaBilNet](#). The network aims to support and stimulate scientific research into harmonious bilingualism and make sure the results of that research are widely disseminated amongst families and educators. Annick wants to spend her remaining professional life helping families to better manage the challenges and opportunities that come with living in a multilingual setting.

Lisa Treffry-Goatley has over two decades of experience in educational publishing as a publisher, editor, and materials developer. She is the senior publisher for the [African Storybook](#) multilingual digital publishing initiative and a PhD candidate in Linguistics at the University of Cape Town. Her MA was in Language Education at the University of the Witwatersrand. Her current research is concerned with multilingual children's literacy practices at their libraries (in South Africa and Kenya), especially children's reading practices with books.



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