

# DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

11 April 2018, 9-17h, Institute of Multilingualism

Multilingualism: Acquisition, Education and Society  
University of Fribourg / Institute of Multilingualism

## De-centering Language in Language Studies

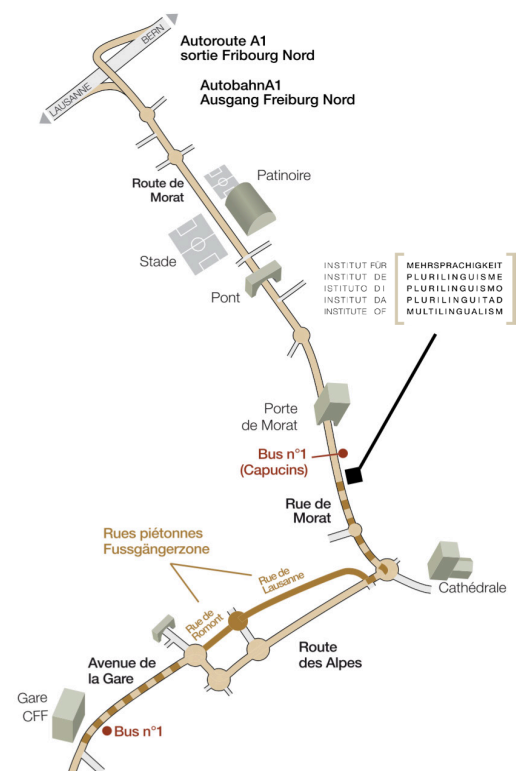
Prof. Dr. Ruanni F. Tupas, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Chair: Prof. Dr. Alexandre Duchêne, University of Fribourg

### Abstract

The central argument that I will put forward in my talks concerns the de-centering of language studies in order to strengthen our understanding of language and its use in society. When we do language studies, we inevitably make language the centre of our investigation. Thus, by default we locate it at the center of social life. Another way to investigate language is to begin inquiring into the social context or everyday life of individuals and communities, and let the significance of language emerge from such an inquiry. This is useful, for example, when we study the language and educational needs of particular communities, and set out to develop contextualized language policies. This is also useful when we study the relevance of particular languages (or language varieties) in people's lives. Ironically, displacing language from the center of our investigation will strengthen our understanding of it as we gain a more realistic and nuanced picture of its place and role in community or everyday life. Exemplars of such research, as well as group activities, will be provided during the lecture, workshop and dialogue with PhD and postdoctoral students.

### Access to the Institute of Multilingualism



From the train station: 15 min by foot or by bus (bus N° 1 to Portes de Fribourg, code N° 10 to buy a ticket), get off at Capucins“ (third stop after the station), go back about 100 meters.

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## Suggested Programme

**9:00 – 12:00**    **Lecture and Discussion**

**14:00 – 17:00**    **Workshop with PhD students and Postdocs**

### Invited speaker

Ruanni Tupas teaches courses in applied sociolinguistics at the National Institute of Education, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. His works have appeared in several journals, including *Language and Education*, *Journal of Sociolinguistics*, *International Journal of Bilingualism and Bilingual Education*, *Language and Politics*, and *Language Teaching*. His current projects investigate ideologies and practices of Unequal Englishes in local secondary classrooms in Singapore. He was the 2009 Andrew Gonzalez Distinguished Professorial Chair in Linguistics and Language Education, awarded by the Linguistic Society of the Philippines (LSP) which recently has also elevated him to honorary membership for his contributions to Philippine applied linguistics.

### PhD programme on Multilingualism

The workshop is part of the doctoral programme Multilingualism: Acquisition, Education, and Society (module B, sociolinguistics). It is organized by the Institute of Multilingualism and the study domain Multilingualism and foreign languages at the University of Fribourg and carried out in close collaboration with the Center for the Study of Language and Society of the University of Bern and with professors from the Universities of Geneva and Lausanne.

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## Participation

Doctoral students of the program's partner universities (Fribourg, Berne, Lausanne and Geneva) are eligible to participate. Students from other Swiss universities may participate depending on places available.

To register, please contact [naomi.shafer@unifr.ch](mailto:naomi.shafer@unifr.ch) by March 20, 2018.

A list of texts participants are expected to read prior to the event will be made available after admission.

Location: Institute of Multilingualism, rue de Morat 24, 1700 Fribourg (room K1.03)

➤ [www.institute-multilingualism.ch](http://www.institute-multilingualism.ch)