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### Transient multilingual communities and language policy in theory and practice

Transient communities where individuals from different linguacultural backgrounds come together to collaborate on shared projects of various kinds for a limited period of time constitute ripe sites for the study of social and linguistic norms in the making (Mortensen and Kraft 2022). For that reason, the study of transient communities speaks to a wide range of research interests within applied linguistics and related fields. In this talk, I focus specifically on how the study of transient multilingual communities, including transient international groups (TIGs) where English is used as a lingua franca (Pitzl 2018), can contribute to the field of language policy research. In short, I shall be arguing that transient multilingual communities, because they provide us with a window on the emergence and (re)production of practices and beliefs that fall under the rubric of language policy (broadly conceived, cf. Spolsky 2004), offer a valuable starting point for theorising the processual, situated, and embedded nature of language policies. At the same time, the study of transient communities may assist language policy scholars in developing an emic perspective on language policy processes which will be helpful when it comes to bridging the gap between theoretical insights and practical application (cf. Wee 2016). The talk draws on select examples from the TMC project ([www.tmc.ku.dk](http://www.tmc.ku.dk)) and the extensive literature on social settings where English is used as a lingua franca.

Mortensen, Janus and Kamilla Kraft (eds). (2022). *Norms and the Study of Language in Social Life*. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton. ISBN: 9781501511882

Pitzl, Marie-Luise. (2018). Transient International Groups (TIGs): Exploring the group and development dimension of ELF. *Journal of English as a Lingua Franca*, 7(1), 25-58. <https://doi.org/10.1515/jelf-2018-0002>

Spolsky, Bernard. (2004). *Language Policy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. ISBN: 9780521011754

Wee, Lionel. (2016). Are there zombies in language policy? Theoretical interventions and the continued vitality of (apparently) defunct concepts. In Nikolas Coupland (ed) *Sociolinguistics: Theoretical Debates*, 331–348. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781107449787.016>

### Bionote

Janus Mortensen is Associate Professor of language policy at the Centre for Internationalisation and Parallel Language (CIP) at the University of Copenhagen. He specialises in the study of transient social configurations, English as a lingua franca and sociolinguistic change. From 2016 till 2019 he was PI on the TMC project, a collaborative research project on the formation of social and linguistic norms in transient multilingual communities funded by the Independent Research Fund Denmark | Humanities. He is the editor of several journal special issues and edited books, including *Style, Mediation, & Change: Sociolinguistic Perspectives on Talking Media* (OUP, 2017), co-edited with Nikolas Coupland and Jacob Thøgersen, and *Norms and the Study of Language in Social Life* (DGM, 2022), co-edited with Kamilla Kraft.