



CALL FOR PAPERS

Sixth REAL symposium on language economics and policy

Universität Potsdam

2026-06-04 – 2026-06-05

ORGANIZERS

REAL (Research group “Economics, policy analysis, and language”) in cooperation with [Ulster University](#), and [Universität Potsdam](#) organizes an interdisciplinary symposium on 4–5 June 2026 at Universität Potsdam, Germany.

The program committee consists of

- Michele GAZZOLA (*Ulster University, REAL*)
- Eva MARKOWSKY (*Universität Potsdam, REAL*)
- Bengt-Arne WICKSTRÖM, chair (*Andrássy-Universität, REAL*)

Responsible for the local organization are Eva MARKOWSKY and NN.

THEME

The REAL symposia aim to discuss all aspects of language economics and language policy; and corresponding contributions are welcome.

Especially welcome are papers that address the role of language skills within the context of increasing mobility, for instance in migration, in the labor market, and in education. Contributions to the symposium can cover theoretical and empirical research, or the practical implications in terms of language policy and impact. The symposium is interdisciplinary, and contributions are accepted from economics, political science, sociology, law, sociolinguistics, and applied linguistics.

Possible themes of submitted papers include, but are not limited to, the following issues:

- The value of languages in the labor market and/or in the economic system as a whole
- The influence of language on migration
- Migration and language diversity, human capital, and socio-economic development
- Theory of human capital in multilingual contexts
- Linguistic diversity in public administration and the private sector
- Language policies and human capital acquisition
- Linguistic justice
- Language policy evaluation
- Promotion and protection of minority language in a context of internal (domestic) mobility

SUBMISSION

Those interested in presenting a paper should send an abstract of no more than 500 words to [Bengt-Arne Wickström](#) before **February 1, 2026**.

Selected papers might be considered for a special issue of the journal *Language Problems & Language Planning* and will be subjected to normal refereeing procedures.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

We are very happy that the following scholars have accepted our invitation to deliver the keynote addresses of the symposium.

- Mette FOGED
 - Assistant professor, Økonomisk Institut, Københavns Universitet; Senior researcher, Lecturer, ROCKWOOL Fonden (ROCKWOOL Foundation); Fellow, Centre for Research and Analysis of Migration – CReAM, University College London – UCL; Research fellow, Forschungsinstitut zur Zukunft der Arbeit – IZA (Institute of Labor Economics)
- Carsten QUELL
 - Executive director, Official Languages Centre of Excellence, Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat / Centre d'excellence en langues officielles, Secrétariat du Conseil du Trésor du Canada

SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

- Ainoa APARICIO FENOLL (*ESOMAS – Università degli Studi di Torino, Collegio Carlo Alberto, REAL*)
- Till BURCKHARDT (*Université de Genève, REAL*)
- Ramon CAMINAL (*Institut d'Anàlisi Econòmica – IAE-CSIC, Barcelona, REAL*)
- Ida PINHO (*Kungliga Tekniska högskolan (Royal Institute of Technology) Stockholm, REAL*)
- François VAILLANCOURT (*Université de Montréal, REAL*)

GENERAL INFORMATION

The home page of the REAL Symposium 2026 can be found [here](#). On the evening before the symposium, participants are invited to an informal welcoming reception. There will also be receptions/dinners in the evening of each day of the symposium.

IMPORTANT DATES

- 2026-02-01 Deadline for submitting an abstract
- 2026-03-01 Decisions on submitted abstracts
- 2026-03-01 Opening of early registration
- 2026-04-01 Registration deadline for presenters of accepted papers
- 2026-05-01 Begin of late registration period

SUPPORTING INSTITUTION

We are grateful for the support of our sponsor:

Ulster University

