

Syllabus

Course: **European minority languages in education: comparative research**

Aims:

- (1) to explore the world of European minority languages (MLs)
- (2) to learn about how academic research is done

We are going to compile a Dossier. Each one of you will be assigned to a group and each group has to find some basic information about four different minority languages in Europe. This is just the first step in our exploration tour. Or, what you can call a form of: “*Exploratory research [which] is a methodological approach that is primarily concerned with discovery...*” (Davies, P. (2006) *SAGE Dictionary of Social Research Methods*, DOI:10.4135/9780857020116).

During this course, you will get to know some 20 minority languages in Europe; in particular, about teaching and language learning. You will also work on a series of academic articles (“**readings**”). We will debate challenges for minority languages and we will have exchanges among ourselves about our own languages, about language learning and about the languages we see around us in public spaces. The course will also deal with what it means to be an academic researcher.

You will do – as a group or individually – several **assignments**. For example, the first is to find a language map and the number of speakers, but also larger assignments e.g. to document the ‘linguistic landscape’. Some assignments are done as a group, others are individual tasks. The results of the assignments are usually presented to the class.

- + The “Readings” (articles/chapters) that all of you have to read will be discussed in class, under the responsibility of each time one student (“discussant”).
- + Plus we will discuss different topics and issues **during class**: a document or a video usually related to multilingualism or minority languages.

Evaluation: There is no final assignment or paper. You will be evaluated as a group on the quantity and the quality of the group work; but also as an individual on your contributions to the class, work as discussant, and through individual tasks; thus both process and product are evaluated.