

# Professional Learning Seminar by Bilingualism SIG

Date: 7 Nov 2024

Time: 3-4 pm

Venue: Online via Zoom

Please register via the QR Code



**Professor Heike Wiese**

Professor of German in Multilingual Contexts, and Speaker for Centre “Language in Urban Diversity” at Humboldt-University Berlin.

This event is organized, curated, and supported by the Bilingualism Special Interest Group (Bilingualism SIG) of NIE.

## Linguistic Diversity in Society and Education: A Comparative View

### Abstract

Multilingualism is the normal condition of human language: human societies, in the past as well as in the present, are linguistically diverse. This diversity is a valuable resource, but it can also pose challenges, in particular in Western societies that are often characterised by a strong monolingual and -ethnic habitus as an historic heritage of European nation-state building. In this talk, I discuss Germany as an example of such a country and compare it with Singapore, a country with a strong multilingual orientation. I analyse problems of monoglossic as well as market-oriented language ideologies and the challenges they can pose for education. Against this background, I present first findings from two ongoing projects, in Singapore (with Sun He, NIE) and in Berlin (in cooperation with the Berlin Senate for Education), and discuss how we can help schools to be a place where children feel empowered and supported in their multilingual competences.

### Biography

Heike Wiese is Professor of German in Multilingual Contexts and speaker for the Centre “Language in Urban Diversity” at Humboldt-University Berlin, after a post at University of Potsdam and visiting posts at Yale University and Brandeis University. She is interested in the dynamics of multilingual settings, especially in urban areas, with foci on language variation, linguistic discrimination and empowerment. In transfer and outreach activities, she cooperates with speaker communities, kindergartens and schools, educational policy makers, and museums. Her 2012 monograph on Kiezdeutsch as a German dialect received national and international media attention and raised awareness of urban contact dialects as a legitimate part of the linguistic landscape. Other publications include a co-authored book (with R. Tracy and A. Sennema) challenging monolingual ideologies in the German education system (*Deutschpflicht auf dem Schulhof?* 2020) and a recent monograph discussing linguistic architecture from a perspective of multilingual settings (*Grammatical Systems Without Language Borders*. 2023).



An Institute of

