

LANGUAGE POLICY IN HIGHER EDUCATION

The Case of Medium-Sized Languages

Edited by F. Xavier Vila (Universitat de Barcelona) and
Vanessa Bretxa (Universitat de Barcelona)

Reviews

This book seeks to fill a gap in the study of higher education language policies. It is a well-researched, well-documented, and thoughtful comparative consideration of the challenge of internationalisation for 'linguae academicae' other than English. Vila and Bretxa's edited volume will definitively help decision-makers, language activists and scholars to understand the complexities and to identify the opportunities for universities under the current process of internationalisation, and to reduce the anxieties it sometimes produces.

Xabier Arzo, University of the Basque Country, Spain

This book focuses on languages under pressure from globalization to lose their prestige status at universities. While major languages remain strong, medium-sized ones are close to succumbing to the global champion, English. This volume lucidly combines theory with meticulous case studies to reveal insights opening up new research perspectives and applications.

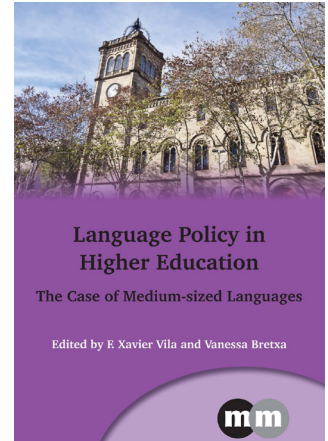
Ulrich Ammon, University of Duisburg-Essen, Germany

Description

This volume deals with multilingualism in higher education by focusing on a number of medium-sized languages that have become solidly established in this field. The book explores how these languages achieved the status of *lingua academica*, reviews the social functions they serve as means of instruction, research and administration, and analyses the challenges posed to them by globalisation. The book aspires to be a reference for both researchers in the area of language in higher education, as well as for decision makers working with communities faced with the societal, political and economic dilemmas involved in managing languages in the university sphere.

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Editor Information

F. Xavier Vila is Associate Professor in the Department of Catalan Philology and Director of the University Centre for Sociolinguistics and Communication at the Universitat de Barcelona. He has published widely in the areas of sociolinguistics, demolinguistics and language policy, including *Survival and Development of Language Communities: Prospects and Challenges* (Multilingual Matters, 2013).

Vanessa Bretxa is a researcher in the sociology of language at the University Centre for Sociolinguistics and Communication at the Universitat de Barcelona and a part time lecturer in the Department of Linguistics at the same university. She is also the co-editor of the academic journal *LSC – Language, Society and Communication*.

Series: Multilingual Matters

Format: 210 x 148 (A5) Pages: 232pp

Pub Date: 05/12/2014

Level: Postgraduate, Research / Professional

Territory: World

Hbk ISBN 9781783092758 £99.95 / US\$169.95 / CAN\$179.95 / €129.95

Pbk ISBN 9781783092741 £29.95 / US\$49.95 / CAN\$54.95 / €39.95

Subject (BIC): CFB Sociolinguistics, ESF English for Academic Purposes, JNM Higher and Further Education, CFDM Bilingualism and Multilingualism

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