



CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

15th Thomas More International Days
Theme of 2019: Language & Communication

*Multilingual Higher Education - English as a Lingua Franca (ELF) - Multilingualism
- Language and the Self - Effective Communication*

The central theme of ID2019 will be language & communication in higher education. Related questions:

- Are institutions struggling in finding a balance between teaching in the native language and foreign languages?
- Non-native speakers that teach in English say that returning to 'teaching in their mother tongue' feels like 'taking a nice warm bath'. What does this say about the level of detail reached in class?
- In research English is definitely the lingua franca. English (ELF) allows collaboration between experts with different mother tongues. But, what is the impact of a lingua franca on the quality of research? Often a defective form of English is observed.
- What is the position of foreign language teachers in higher education? Are they open to new pedagogies such as content language integrated learning (CLIL)?
- How open are we, as higher education institutions, to welcoming students and staff from abroad as a way to enrich our learning communities? And to what extent do they have a positive effect on the local community?
- Should we train students in as many languages as possible to equip them for the globalised world they will be working in?
- What do we regard as effective communication in professional contexts today? And what is the role of verbal and visual communication to help produce the most effective message possible?

These **questions** show the richness of the theme. With the ID2019 theme, we hope to attract **experts of all kinds**: language experts, communication experts, education experts, experts with a specific view on languaging¹ in relation to their professional field, experts in multilingualism, etc.

¹ languaging, "a process of making meaning and shaping knowledge and experience through language" (Swain, 2006, p. 98), where 'language' can potentially be any language, not only the local, target or L1 languages.

The **ID2019** will build bridges between higher education and the professional field. It will offer a multidisciplinary platform, looking at inspiring perspectives, policies and practices from all over the globe.

The ID2019 are organised by Thomas More UAS in collaboration with the Katholieke Universiteit Leuven in Belgium from 18-22 March 2019.

The **joint conference day** is taking place in the Lamot Conference and Heritage Centre in Mechelen on Wednesday 20 March 2019. The Centre is a former brewery, where up until the eighties the legendary Lamot beer was produced.

During this joint conference day all Thomas More fields of study will be represented and all guests of all fields will be meeting.

Guests combine this joint conference day with the programme organised by the department of their specific field of study.

The field specific programmes consist of sessions, lectures or workshops by our international guests. Sessions will be open to our students, colleagues and representatives from the professional field. Lessons and presentations can be about the overall theme, but also about the specific expertise of our guests. Guests are also asked to present their institutions and countries to our students. Classes can be taught in English, French or German.

The participation fee is 100 EUR. We expect the participants to cover travel, accommodation and other expenses. Participation can qualify as an ERASMUS+ teacher/staff mobility or other mobility.

Topics:

Topics and areas of interest include, but are not limited to:

- Language policies in institutions & curricula
- Importance of foreign language proficiency within each discipline
- English as the common language for research and international higher education
- Beyond language: how can international students and staff be connected with the local culture?
- Multilingualism
- Linguaging while on Erasmus
- Language and the self - *“A paradoxical conflict results in that the language learner wishes to create and maintain an ideal sense of self in the second language, yet the very act of language use threatens that image” (Pellegrino Aveni, 2005, p. 4)*
- Multilingual Higher Education & differences among (European) regions
- ‘English as the default language of international communication’ causes problems of motivation to learn foreign languages in English-speaking countries
- No two languages are learned in exactly the same way
- Visual communication and its effectiveness
- ...

Call for Abstracts

If you want to share your experiences, learn from others and help us build more knowledge on language & communication, we kindly invite you to present at our conference.

Please send in a **one page abstract** (500 words, without references) using the widely used Easychair platform. The abstracts should be uploaded in pdf on: <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=id2019>. If you are not yet an Easychair user, the system will suggest creating a new user login.

Deadline for abstract submission is November 30, 2018. Abstracts will be reviewed by our Programme Committee and feedback will be sent by December 20, 2018.

We thank you in advance for your interest.



Inge Vervoort, Programme chair
on behalf of the Organising committee

email: inge.vervoort@thomasmore.be
conference website: <https://www.thomasmore.be/en/agenda/15th-thomasmore-international-days>

Timing

Call for Abstracts:	August, 2018
Abstract submission Deadline:	November 30, 2018
Review	December 2018
Author Decision Notification:	December 20, 2018
Registration Deadline (speakers):	January 18, 2019
Joint Conference Day:	March 20, 2019



CONGRES

15th Thomas More International Days

Locations

18 March - 22 March
monday - friday

Programme Committee

Inge Vervoort	Thomas More (B)
Vanessa Dockx	Thomas More (B)
Kirsten Schraeyen	Thomas More (B)

Organising Committee

International office & international coordinators Thomas More

We expect more than 150 guests and warmly welcome all the old friends and new acquaintances!