On decoupling migrants' individual resourcefulness and communicative success: questions from the field

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In this seminar I draw on a research project among migrants who live in a shelter in northeastern Italy to examine in what way individual resourcefulness might not always be a fully adequate dimension to capture communicative success. Theoretically I consider new perspectives on competence as it 'emerges through finely distributed practices between social networks and material ecologies, motivated by relational ethics' (Canagarajah 2022: 22) as well as recent insights in linguistic ethnography that raise questions over an understanding of the individual in solipsistic terms (Blackledge & Creese 2023: 131). I also pick up earlier calls that caution against methodological individualism (Canagarajah 2018). I conclude with some points on what the data presented suggest, and discuss possibilities for further empirical and theoretical developments.

References

Blackledge, Adrian, & Angela Creese (2023). *Essays in linguistic ethnography: Ethics, aesthetics, encounters*. Bristol: Multilingual Matters.

Canagarajah, Suresh A. (2018). 'Translingual practice as spatial repertoires: expanding the paradigm beyond structuralist orientations', *Applied Linguistics*, 39/1: 31–54.

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Bio

Marco Santello is a researcher at the University of Turin, Italy. He holds a PhD from the University of Sydney and, before joining the University of Turin, he worked as a research fellow at the University of Warwick and subsequently as a lecturer at the University of Leeds, UK. His works have appeared in journals such as *Applied Linguistics*, *Language in Society*, *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism*, *Language and Intercultural Communication* as well as volumes. His research interests revolve around multilingualism, language and migration, and code-switching.