

# POLYGLOT GATHERING

A MULTILINGUAL GATHERING FOR THOSE INTERESTED IN LANGUAGES AND CULTURES

## PROGRAM BOOK

BRATISLAVA, 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY – 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017

Буряад 文言  
日本語 Bahasa Indonesia Svenska Анҕсһәә  
Português Hrvatski ᄃᄃᄃ Žemaitėška हिन्दी Wolof Cebuano  
Føroyskt Hornjoserbsce Alemannisch Kurdî Magyar كوردی ناوهندی Dansk  
Română 𐌆𐌗𐌊 Boarisch ਪੰਜਾਬੀ Nederlands Français Esperanto  
Íslenska 客家語 Walon 中文 Slovenčina മലയാളം Čeština فارسی Hawai'i  
Türkçe Հայերեն తెలుగు Deutsch Català Eestî יידיש Polski Қазақша मराठी العربية  
Yorùbá Suomi Kiswahili Norsk Беларуская Malagasy Español Gaeilge Latina Euska  
Rumantsch English བོད་སྐད་ Italiano მარგალური Bân-lâm-gú  
Bosanski Cymraeg नेपाली Galego Македонски Qaraqalpaqsha Русский  
Nouormand Frysk Tiếng Việt Brezhoneg ལྷོ་ཡུལ་ ལྷོ་སྐད་ ལྷོ་སྐད་  
Gĩkũyũ Occitan IsiZulu  
Ирон پنجابی Afrikaans  
Kaszëbsczi עברית

[HTTP://POLYGLOTBRATISLAVA.COM](http://polyglotbratislava.com)



Lehrbücher

Audio-CDs

Lernsoftware

mp3-CD

H hrvatski česky **Ö** english  
polski  
日本語  
Français  
italiano  
**R** magyar  
suomi **E** Bahasa Indonesia  
汉语 Ελληνικά **N**  
Türkçe עברית български norsk  
**L** svenska **S** Nederlands **E** **N**  
русский  
Deutsch العربية română  
**V** **E** **R** **S** **T** **E** **H** **E** **N**  
TIẾNG VIỆT português latina हिन्दी  
**W** **I** **E** **D** **E** **R** **H** **O** **L** **E** **N**  
dansk español فارسی  
**S** **E** **L** **B** **S** **T** **S** **P** **R** **E** **C** **H** **E** **N**



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**Spaß an Sprachen!** Überall wo es Bücher gibt und auf [AssimilWelt.com](http://AssimilWelt.com)

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Polyglot Gathering 2017 is organized under the auspices of:

- Miroslav Lajčák, the Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic
- Ferdinand Daňo, Rector of the University of Economics in Bratislava
- Ivo Nesrovnal, Mayor of Bratislava

Polyglot Gathering 2017 has been prepared for you by:



Join us on [twitter.com/PolyglotGat](https://twitter.com/PolyglotGat), tweet with #polyglotgathering  
For live updates from the organizers and participants use Telegram:  
<https://t.me/polyglotgathering>

## **Welcome! / Ahojte! / Saluton!**

Whether this is your first, second, third or even fourth Polyglot Gathering, welcome to yet another polyglot event which gathers language enthusiasts from all over the world!

The Polyglot Gathering was originally initiated by Judith Meyer, Chuck Smith and Martin Sawitzki who organized it together with their team in years 2014, 2015 and 2016 in Berlin. This is the first time the Polyglot Gathering is held elsewhere and we, the organizers of this year's Gathering, are truly happy to welcome you all to our beloved country of Slovakia!

You can look forward to everything that you enjoyed so much in the previous Gatherings: amazing talks where we as a community share our best know-how and ideas with one another, common lunches and dinners (if you ordered them), multilingual concerts (this time not only by jOmO but also by Jessie Ann de Angelo), a mentalist show by Florian, polyglot games, a culinary festival where you can present the best from your countries as well as a multicultural evening where you can perform anything in any language. On top of all that, we are also introducing some new items on the program, such as half-day and one-day trips around Bratislava and western Slovakia, food and drink stalls at the venue, a board game zone, a Gufujo chill-out area with bean bags, an English-free zone and even participation in a new Slovak record in the number of languages spoken under one roof!

We hope that, for all of you, Polyglot Gathering 2017 becomes a friendly place where you exchange motivation, inspiration, and fresh ideas, and where you can share your passion for languages. We also hope that Bratislava becomes your home away from home for the following five days and that you get to discover the beauty of Slovakia and possibly even of the Slovak language.

In the words of Judith Meyer, the main organizer of the previous three Polyglot Gatherings in Berlin: "Don't count your languages – speak them! Share the polyglot love!"

Lýdia Machová and Peter Baláž

Dear Polyglots, Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my great honour to welcome you to Bratislava, the capital of Slovakia, at your world “Polyglots Gathering”, taking place in our country for the first time.

This special event is a unique opportunity to tell you the story of our young and modern country. We wish to show you its multilingual and multicultural character, rich history, and breathtaking sights, but particularly its innovative and warm-hearted people. It has been said that languages are the pedigree of nations.

They are a major part of the world cultural heritage, and they need to be protected, promoted and further developed. Big or small, all languages deserve our attention. For that to happen we need to seek innovative methods to improve foreign language teaching, both at schools and through various non-formal forms of teaching. Since its accession to the European Union in 2004 Slovakia has put together an inclusive discussion platform on the European Union, the so called “National Convention on the European Union”. It *inter alia* tackled at different levels the complex and unresolved problems of language communication in our common European house. It looked at it from its multilingual, multicultural and multireligious angle seeking effective and widely accepted solutions. As a result a V4 conference on language policy (Perspectives of language communication in the European Union) took place in July 2016 as a major event of the Slovak EU Presidency. Its conclusions in the *Nitra Declaration* and together three papers (citizens’ integration in Europe, economic integration, the improvement of language learning and communication) are viewed as our innovative contribution to the on-going debate on the future of Europe. They are indeed food for thought and they should be widely studied.

I hope that through your discussions you will find many inspiring ideas and suggestions to maintain and develop our common linguistic heritage and to seek ways for better mutual interlinguistic, interethnic and intercultural understanding of all people everywhere in the world.

Dear visitors, I wish you a pleasant stay in our capital. I am confident that you will enjoy your stay and come back for a visit to discover in depth Slovakia’s many diverse sights and sounds exactly as its brand has it – “Good Idea Slovakia”.



Miroslav Lajčák, Minister of Foreign and European Affairs of the Slovak Republic

**Lýdia Machová: Head organizer**

Lýdia is a professional conference interpreter and language mentor from Slovakia. Her mission at [www.language mentoring.com](http://www.language mentoring.com) ([www.jazykovymentoring.sk](http://www.jazykovymentoring.sk) in Slovakia) is to help people learn languages more effectively by applying principles that polyglots use in their language learning. She currently speaks 9 languages (Slovak, Czech, English, German, Spanish, Polish, French, Esperanto, Russian in the order of learning) and usually learns a new language every two years. She is a passionate traveler and likes Latin-American dances.

**Peter Baláž: Head organizer**

Peter is an Esperantist, publisher and editor; he was selected as the 2012 Esperantist of the Year. Baláž lives in his hometown of Partizánske and speaks, to various degrees, Slovak, Czech, German, Polish, Russian and English, as well as Esperanto. Peter is especially active in the international Esperanto movement and educational projects, and in 2005 he became the coordinator of E@I. He is also known as an organiser of international events (mainly, but not only, Esperanto-meetings). He is a former board member of Wikimedia Slovakia and, since September 2012, a member of its Revision Committee. He owns the Slovakia-based publishing firm Espero, founded in 2003, which publishes mainly Esperanto works.

**Dorota Rodzianko: Administration and finances**

Dorota, 28, is from Poland and currently lives in Slovakia. She studied economics. Since 2010, she has been organizing international events in various European cities and countries. Since 2012, she has been mostly in charge of administration of participants and finances. She has experience in organizing events with 50 to 300 participants (she was also involved in the organization of a worldwide event with 1300 participants).

## **Matthieu Desplantes: Website, program booklet**



Matthieu is from France but has been living in Slovakia since October 2013. He studied computer engineering for five years in Paris and now works with both computers and languages. He speaks (to various degrees) French, Esperanto, English, Slovak and Russian, and has basic knowledge of a few more languages. He has been involved in the organization of several international events, most of which are related to Esperanto.

## **Dimitris Polychronopoulos: Sponsor relations**



Dimitris has a Master of International Studies and a Global Executive Master of Business Administration. He has lived in countries as diverse as Greece, Taiwan, Norway, France, Spain, the USA and the Philippines. He has travelled to more than 100 countries, all seven continents and speaks 14 languages at different levels. At the Polyglot Gathering 2016, he launched yozzi.com, a platform for people to practice writing and editing in their target languages, which aims to become the Lang-8 for advanced learners.

## **Miroslav Šedivý: Volunteer coordinator**



Miro was born in Bratislava just a few kilometers from the Iron Curtain which allowed him to secretly watch the cartoons on the Austrian TV and believe that the whole world behind the fence was speaking Austrian. Today he still doesn't speak Austrian.

## **Cesco Reale: Conference activities**



A scientific communicator, Cesco deals with games, languages and maths, creating festivals, exhibitions and conferences. He speaks more than 10 languages, including Latin and Esperanto, and holds the IPA certificate in phonetics. He is also the UN representative for the World Esperanto Association and the creator of Limbas, a language seminar in Italy.

**Zuzana Dohnalová: Accommodation, meals and trips**

Zuzana studied management at the Comenius University in Bratislava. She is a founder and manager of the company Sym-site Research, which for more than 20 years has been bringing daily economic news to foreign investors doing business in Slovakia. She worked as a chief editor of the quarterly *Business Operations Report Slovakia*, published by The Economist Group. She worked as a financial manager for the non-profit Center for Philanthropy. She volunteers as an interpreter for the Christian seminar Father Heart. She is a mother of four who organizes family camps and writes plays for youth theater in her local community.

**L. Barone-Adesi: Program**

Polyglot, tech geek, and travel enthusiast. Program coordinator of the Polyglot Gathering. Happy to lend a hand to participants with any issues that come up during the Gathering!

**Edoardo Nannotti: Graphic design**

Edoardo was born in 1985 in the Southeast tip of Italy. He is a programmer and a graphic designer. Not religious, but a believer in free knowledge and societies without hierarchy. He likes cooking, capoeira and art that can make you laugh and think at the same time.

Our special thanks also go to Zuzana Šplhová, Katarína Krutá and Georg Jähniig for assisting us with many details, as well as to Judith Meyer, Chuck Smith and Martin Sawitzki for creating the amazing concept of Polyglot Gathering and for sharing their best practices with the PG2017 team.

TIME	
13-22	Registration
13-18	Polyglot games (p. 92) Cesco Reale, Miroslav Šedivý
18-19:30	Dinner
19:30-20:30	Opening ceremony
20:30-22	More polyglot games

## Omniglot - the online encyclopedia of writing systems and languages

أبجدية  
*Abjads*

Αλφάβητα  
*Alphabets*

अबुगिदास  
*Abugidas*

おんせつもじ  
*Syllabaries*

語素文字  
*Logographic scripts*

Constructed scripts

- Phrases
- Numbers
- Colours
- Time
- Kinship terms
- Idioms
- Proverbs
- Tongue twisters
- Articles
- Multilingual texts
- Language learning tips

한 가지 언어는 충분하지 못 해

Нэг хэл хэзээ ч хангалтгүй

TIME	ASSIMIL ROOM	AMIKUMU ROOM
9-10	What experimental polyglottery tells us about (p. 43) Grigory Kazakov	The Slavic languages (p. 66) Matthieu Desplantes
10-11	Chinese Languages: Comparison and Acquisition Tactics (p. 67) Michael Campbell	The Joy of Mistakes & The Beauty of Imperfection (p. 62) Lindsay Williams (formerly Dow)
11-12	Netflix and chill like a boss – How to learn languages the lazy way (p. 18) Aleksandra Stepien	Yugoslavian languages – do small differences matter or not ? (p. 17) Aleksandar Medjedovic
12-13	The challenges of translating over 140 different languages (p. 70) Nat Dinham	Turkish for Europeans: Introduction to what is the “unofficial second language” of Germany and a few other EU countries (p. 17) Aleksandar Medjedovic
13-15	Lunch	
15-16	Understanding Asian Culture and Origins (p. 38) Fiel Sahir	Simultandolmetschen ist nur ein Handwerk (p. 35) Elisabeth Dörrer
16-17	Which language is the most beneficial to learn? (p. 19) Aleš Galus	Amikummu Q&A (p. 29) Chuck Smith, Judith Meyer, Neil Roberts
17-18	De skandinaviska/skandinaviske språken/språkene/sprog (p. 44) Karl-Erik Wångstedt, Irena Dahl, Kristoffer Broholm	Different language, different personality? (p. 26) Cécile Plecenik
18-19:30	Dinner	
19:30-21	Culinary festival (p. 87)	
21-22	Multilingual concert by jOmO (p. 88)	

TIME	LANGUAGE MENTORING ROOM	E@I ROOM
9-10	Diversity and Unity: For effective multilingualism in Europe (p. 54) Ján Figel'	Learn a language by building a dictionary (p. 53) Jan Berkel
10-11	"Springboard to Languages" – Introducing foreign languages via Esperanto (p. 83) Tim Morley	Introduction to the Norwegian language (p. 33) Dimitris Polychronopoulos
11-12	The power of language in politics (in German) (p. 74) Radoslav Štefančík	The Indonesian Language 101 (p. 38) Fiel Sahir
12-13	Brexit and languages in Europe (p. 79) Seán Ó Riain	Situation linguistique du Québec et du Canada (p. 71) Nicolas Viau
13-15	Lunch	
15-16	The need for a radical change in traditional EU language policy (p. 57) Jozef Reinvarť	Slovak language lesson (p. 69) Miriam Pavlovičová, Juraj Cigáň
16-17	How to expand linguistic justice in the cities? (p. 84) Xavi Alcalde	Using TV, Anki, and subtitles to learn a language (p. 77) Rick Dearman
17-18	European identity – does it need a common language? (p. 72) Peter Baláž	Hiragana: flash memorization (p. 42) Gonzalo Rojas Oberreuter
18-19:30	Dinner	
19:30-21	Culinary festival (p. 87)	
21-22	Multilingual concert by jOmO (p. 88)	

TIME	ASSIMIL ROOM	AMIKUMU ROOM
9-10	Using Deep Learning (a.k.a. Deliberate Practice) To Accelerate Grammar Acquisition (p. 23) Bartosz Czekala	Etytree: a graphical multilingual etymology dictionary using data extracted from the English Wiktionary (p. 36) Ester Pantaleo
10-11	Ten things polyglots do differently (p. 62) Lýdia Machová	Learning one language with the help of another (p. 55) Ján Keresty
11-12	Assimil – a century dedicated to language learning (p. 73) Philippe Gagneur, Daniel Krasa	“But That’s So Hard!” – Various Cultures’ Takes on Language Difficulty (p. 21) Angelo DeLeo
12-13	Language Learning with Virtual Reality & Augmented Reality (p. 84) Zsolt Balai	Yes, You <i>Can</i> Be The Person Who Talks to Anyone! (p. 61) Kerstin Cable
13-15	Lunch	
15-16	Can Knowing Some K’iche’ Save Your Life and Make You Rich? (Probably Not, But Why Take Chances?) (p. 33) Dave Prine	Languages, not dialects: the diversity of Chinese (p. 84) Timothy McKeon
16-17	How to learn other languages through Esperanto: Russian and French (in easy Esperanto) (p. 20) Charlotte Scherping Larsson, Alexey G.	Gender Pronouns in Language: A Guide for LGBTI Polyglots And Their Allies (p. 56) Joanna van Schaik
17-18	Learning some fun Slovak folk songs (p. 35) Elisabeth Dörrer	Lightning talks (p. 90)
18-19:30	Dinner	
19:30-20:30	Mentalist Florian Heller’s multilingual show (p. 87)	
20:30-21:30	Multilingual concert by Jessie Ann de Angelo (p. 88)	

TIME	LANGUAGE MENTORING ROOM	E@I ROOM
9-10	Consciously becoming aware of words – Oxford Debates (p. 68) Mikołaj Bać	Ukrainian for Beginners (p. 65) Marta Melnyk
10-11	Aneignung der Zweisprachigkeit im jungen Alter am eigenen Beispiel (p. 64) Małgorzata Długosz	Slovak language lesson (p. 69) Miriam Pavlovičová, Juraj Cigáň
11-12	How to get the most out of your online language classes (p. 55) Jan van der Aa, Lucas Bighetti	Improvisation as a tool to boost confidence in language learning (workshop) (p. 64) Marion Viau
12-13	How to Love out Loud Through Language (p. 38) Fiel Sahir	
13-15	Lunch	
15-16	AI and the Polyglot: Perfect Together (p. 56) Jennifer Geacone-Cruz	Apprendre à lire le seselwa, le créole français des Seychelles, en trois quarts d'heure (p. 28) Christian Koch
16-17	How many words do we need to know? (p. 79) Steve Kaufmann	Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis. Initiation au ch'ti, patois du Nord de la France (p. 29) Clémentine Duriez
17-18	Daredevil language learning: How to turn your weaknesses into strengths (p. 24) Benny Lewis	Une introduction à l'arabe libanais ! (p. 74) Ralph Hurley O'Dwyer
18-19:30	Dinner	
19:30-20:30	Mentalist Florian Heller's multilingual show (p. 87)	
20:30-21:30	Multilingual concert by Jessie Ann de Angelo (p. 88)	

TIME	ASSIMIL ROOM	AMIKUMU ROOM
10-11	Learning by Eye vs. Learning by Ear: Which is better? (p. 44) Idahosa Ness	Had I known Esperanto would be this easy... (p. 83) Tim Owen
11-12	"Fluent in three decades?" The joys of life-long language learning for beginners... and old hands (p. 41) Gareth Popkins	Time Management for Language-Learners: More Focus, More Time, More Energy (p. 37) Fabien Snauwaert
12-13	The Making of a Hyperglot (p. 82) Tim Keeley (Timothy Dean Keeley)	The Magic of Getting the Most out of One's Time: Learn to Better Learn Languages! (p. 40) Florian Heller
13-15	Lunch	
15-16	"Don't say 'quite!'" and "The Joy of Phrasal Verbs" (p. 83) Tim Morley	Language learning for the lazy, minimize effort, maximize impact (p. 41) Gabriel Gelman
16-17	Naples: a lively journey through Neapolitan culture, dance and dialect (p. 31) Daniel Krasa, Elisa Polese	The Quantified Polyglot: How Scarcity and Other Numerical Constraints Affect Language Learning (in Russian) (p. 76) Richard DeLong
17-18	Start-up presentations Yozzi (p. 34), FlipWord (p. 81), FlashSticks (p. 39)	The Power of State – The Most Underrated Element in Modern Language Learning (p. 67) Michael Mischkot
18-19:30	Dinner + all speakers' dinner	
20-22	International culture evening (p. 87)	

TIME	LANGUAGE MENTORING ROOM	E@I ROOM
10-11	Language challenges – final evaluation (Slovak for Slavic participants) (p. 91)	An Introduction to Irish (p. 75) Ralph Hurley O'Dwyer
11-12	Language challenges – final evaluation (Slovak for non-Slavic participants) (p. 91)	Introduction to Japanese (p. 36) Eriko Tamura
12-13	Mit Sprachzertifikaten auf zum nächsten Level – Motivation für das nächste Sprachprojekt (p. 32) Daniela Maizner	Introduction to Catalan language and culture (p. 85) Xavi Alcalde
13-15	Lunch	
15-16	Norwegian – a comprehensive guide on how to learn the language in 5 months (p. 59) Kamil Klemsa	Free mobile apps for learning languages (p. 69) Miriam Sirotnáková
16-17	Introducción a la pragmática (p. 78) Santiago Diossa Muñoz	Singing in Swedish (dialects edition) (p. 27) Charlotte Scherping Larsson
17-18	The Kaiser's most talented polyglot – The extraordinary life of interpreter, diplomat and language nerd Emil Krebs, who mastered 68 languages (p. 31) Daniel R.	Introduction to Klingon (p. 60) Kelvin Jackson, Philip Newton
18-19:30	Dinner + all speakers' dinner	
20-22	International culture evening (p. 87)	

TIME	ASSIMIL ROOM	AMIKUMU ROOM
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11-12	L'espéranto : une langue vivante (p. 66) Matthieu Desplantes	Slovak as a foreign language – theory and practice go “hand in hand” (p. 60) Katarína Nevrlová
12-13	Life in multiple languages (p. 76) Richard Simcott	Language challenges – final evaluation (Esperanto) (p. 91)
13-15	Lunch	
15-16		Strange and fascinating things from the zoo of languages (p. 27) Cesco Reale, Dimitris Polychronopoulos
16-17	The languages slipping away. What can we do to stop it? (p. 22) Audrius Sabūnas	Lightning talks (p. 90)
17-18	Closing ceremony and setting of Slovak record (p. 88)	
18-19:30	Dinner	

TIME	LANGUAGE MENTORING ROOM	E@I ROOM
10-11	Being Funny in a Foreign Language (p. 34) Dimitris Polychronopoulos	Way of the Peaceful Bookworm (How to read and read and read – and learn some languages) (p. 53) Ivan Kupka
11-12	Trust the Process: The only way to be fluent in any language (p. 25) Benson Hoi	Trees and waves and the Germanic mess (p. 71) Niels J. L. Iversen
12-13	How to use LingQ (p. 80) Steve Kaufmann	Hungarian and Finnish: two “unique” languages, with huge distance and with common history (p. 80) Szabolcs Szilva
13-15	Lunch	
15-16	An Introduction to Nootka, a Highly-Endangered Canadian Language (p. 25) Brian Loo Soon Hua	Das mehrsprachige Bratislava oder Warum macht es keinen Sinn, die Sprachen zu zählen (p. 58) Jozef Tancer
16-17	How to recognize and take benefits from patterns – learning languages <i>per analogiam</i> (p. 22) Bartłomiej Janiczak	Using Language Skills for Good: Interpreting for Survivors of Torture and Trauma (p. 63) Madeline Vadkerty
17-18	Closing ceremony and setting of Slovak record (p. 88)	
18-19:30	Dinner	

# List of talks and speakers

*Almost 100 interesting talks and workshops about languages and linguistics, language learning, language policy and life as a polyglot. Find all speakers in alphabetical order.*

## Aleksandar Medjedovic



Born in Germany and educated in Germany and France, Aleksandar Medjedovic is an economist of Yugoslavian origin. He keeps close personal and professional links to all countries that resulted from Yugoslavia and puts those links into a global context whenever possible. His mother tongues are German and BCS (Bosnian-Croatian-Serbian). He also speaks English, French, Spanish, Turkish, Italian, Russian and a few more.

### **Yugoslavian languages – do small differences matter or not?**

*Thursday, 11:00*

Since the breakup of Yugoslavia during the nineties, what disassembled into different parts was not only one country, but also what seemed to be a “unique” language – “Serbo-Croatian”. Citizens of a nation that had been used to communicating mainly in one language for 50 years suddenly faced the challenge of criss-crossing over 7 or more languages.

- What are those languages?
- Are they languages or rather dialects?
- What are the historical roots and how do they translate into the new geo-political structures?
- What is the impact on daily life in the Balkans – are people “multilingual” or not?
- The cultural-sociological-economic impact of this “diversity”.

Lecture attendees will get at least a linguistic idea of the sometimes rightfully called “madness of the Balkans” and learn how it is to live with Bosnian, Croatian, Macedonian, Montenegrin, Serbian and Slovene at the same time, and how “minority” languages like Albanian, German, Slovak, Hungarian, Romanian, Turkish and Italian continue to influence the Balkans. Practical examples and unusual insights into the daily linguistic life of the Balkans are part of the workshop.

### **Turkish for Europeans: Introduction to what is the “unofficial second language” of Germany and a few other EU countries**

*Thursday, 12:00*

Turkish has become a very popular language to learn. In the last 20 years, Turkey has grown into a large country and strong economy, and many people consider it a key player on the global stage. The geo-political situation of Turkey has always

been dynamic and moving, and it is clear that Turkey will be in the focus of many institutions and their people in the EU and worldwide. In Germany and in a few other countries (Benelux, Scandinavia, France, Austria), Turkish is a kind of “second language” – with some 3.5 million people of Turkish origin living in Germany many more living in other European countries, providing ample practice opportunities and also good business prospects. Attendees will learn about Turkish as a language, its roots, and its known similarities with other languages including less known ones (i.e. Japanese). They will also hear about the presence of the Turkish language in areas that many people may not even be aware of. Information on how it was to learn Turkish “on the streets of Istanbul” and how Turkish language and culture impacts many things around us will round up the experience. The lecture might help to see Turkey and its language and mentality from a different perspective than news channels can offer.

### Aleksandra Stepien



Aleksandra is a marketer by profession and a linguaphile by passion. She diagnosed herself with linguaphilia at the age of 18 and has been pursuing the polyglot dream ever since. For the past 5 years she’s been moving from country to country to live with locals and learn their languages. She’s a TV series addict and loves watching *Desperate Housewives* in every new language she learns. Current mission: collecting George Orwell’s *1984* in all existing language versions (16 so far).

### Netflix and chill like a boss – How to learn languages the lazy way

Thursday, 11:00

If after the whole day of working you still feel like digging into grammar books – you can skip this talk. But if you happen to be human instead, you would probably rather... Netflix and chill? What if I told you there’s no better way of becoming a polyglot than spending your evenings in front of the TV? Too good to be true? Not if you apply a couple of simple rules. Ready to discover the laziest (and most efficient) language learning method? See you during the talk!

## Aleš Galus



Aleš Galus lived in five, studied in four and travelled in more than 30 countries. He is passionate about cross-cultural differences and, of course, languages as part of culture. He is interested in many things – he has studied mechanical engineering, economics, languages and anatomy. He plays the guitar, the piano, football, and ultimate frisbee, and also climbs, snowboards, writes stories, hitchhikes, does wild camping and much more. Although he would never say no to food, he has a hard time eating only three things in this world – sweet cakes, lasagna and toasted bread.

## Which language is the most beneficial to learn?

*Thursday, 16:00*

Do you want to know which language you should learn now? Which language has the highest demand (the highest chance to get you a job) and which the highest supply (too many people speak it)? And mainly, which language has the most benefit to learn in order to understand other similar languages? I was also interested in the answers! That's why I dedicated my bachelor thesis to the topic to find out the truth about the current situation on the market. Come and join me on this interesting path of choosing your next target language and the benefits connected to it. I will outline several directions you can take based on your language ability and preferences – and it's entirely up to you, how many birds you kill with the stone I give you!

## Alexey G., Charlotte Scherping Larsson



Alexey G. is a newcomer to the polyglot community. His mother tongue is Russian but he has been living in Germany for about twenty years. He studied German and electrical engineering, and as a student he learned Esperanto because of its simplicity and structure. His positive experience motivated him to study more languages, like English, French and Swedish.



Charlotte Scherping Larsson has been an avid language learner ever since she started collecting French quotes in a notebook in school. She is a Swedish student of psychology who works in tech support for a French firm in Germany. It was a lecture in easy Esperanto that piqued her interest in the language, and she would love to give you the same experience. She has been lecturing and leading trainings in Esperanto since starting to learn the language in December 2015. Also look for her lectures on YouTube.

### **How to learn other languages through Esperanto: Russian and French (lecture in easy Esperanto)**

*Friday, 16:00*

Learning one language, it is said, should make it easier to learn another. Each language has its quirks, and some are more helpful for learning other languages than others. Esperanto, the brain-child of Ludwig Zamenhof, is intended to be easy to learn. Lectures in easy Esperanto are a great way to experience the language for the first time. It has been around since 1887 and has a vibrant community. Many of the words are based on common Indo-European words, but many are also specifically French. With the help of Esperanto, one can easily learn a number of French words. The Russian case system is a source of both joy and frustration for many learners, and learning Esperanto first gives the learner a better understanding of many grammatical pitfalls. You'll be ready to tackle any language with a lot of cases, now with a tool and a structure that gives you confidence. Save some time on your learning of these two world languages with the help of a tour through *la vera mondolingvo*.

Listen to Alexey and Charlotte mangle both French and Russian pronunciation as we geek out on cases, etymology and the pure joy of learning languages!

### **Angelo DeLeo**



Angelo DeLeo is a current student at George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He is the Founder and President of GW Polyglots, his university's organization for promoting language learning in the student body and providing tips to improve in their learning. The talk presented at this year's Polyglot Gathering is directly based on his previously-published article for the ICT

for Language Learning Conference, which was an attempt to tie ideas of language ideology directly to a polyglot lifestyle. Angelo's future career aspirations involve either working in the U.S. Foreign Service or as a professor of Linguistic Anthropology.

## **"But That's So Hard!" – Various Cultures' Takes on Language Difficulty**

*Friday, 11:00*

"Is \_\_\_\_\_ hard to learn?" You may have heard this from a friend hoping to study a foreign language, and unsurprisingly, it is a notoriously hard question to answer. How you think of learning a foreign language depends on a variety of factors like your previous language exposure, your motivations, and your interests. But how might your culture shape how you view the difficulty of a foreign language? In this talk, we will discuss the concept of language ideology and each culture's ideas around the difficulty or easiness of their own language and foreign languages. We will examine the role of English in the formation of an increased rejection of learning foreign languages in countries like the USA, and the fear that a language is too difficult to learn. After this talk, you will be better able to identify the ways that pre-conceived notions about language difficulty affect those in your culture who hope to learn a language, and foreign learners who try to learn your native language. By having an intercultural knowledge about how the general non-polyglot population thinks about language learning, we will have the tools to promote a polyglot lifestyle and language learning in every community.

## **Audrius Sabūnas**



Audrius Sabūnas is a Lithuanian polyglot and Energy scientist from Vytautas Magnus University. Throughout his short life he conspires to learn many languages and to lead a sustainable lifestyle, abiding with the motto: "Be kind to others, crave knowledge and study languages". Audrius is happy having finally found reconciliation in his biggest passions: Climate justice, sustainable development and languages. He is also slightly digitalized and

occasionally appears on YouTube.

**The languages slipping away. What can we do to stop it?***Sunday, 16:00*

Have you ever wondered that a certain, even the slightest action might result in a chain of reactions causing one or another outcome? It is called “the butterfly effect”. However, this presentation is not about philosophy. A few people from the previous Polyglot gathering might be familiar with my presentation about the relationship between climate change and linguistic diversity. This presentation serves as a continuation for it. Last year I received a tremendously useful comment by someone from the audience about the lack of attention to what we can do to change the situation. So let me tell you that we can do more than we think! Come and find out why it is a moral imperative to save both our environment and linguistic diversity.

**Bartłomiej Janiczak**

Bartłomiej is a Polish language enthusiast who lives in Cracow. He is currently studying Iranian and Arabic philology at the university. He is usually an open-minded guy full of energy unless you remind him of the fact that human life is not long enough to learn all the languages of the world. Then he becomes sad and quiet. He loves books and/or people (especially multilingual and -cultural company), depending primarily on the season of the year.

**How to recognize and take benefits from patterns – learning languages *per analogiam****Sunday, 16:00*

Subjunctive? Please, no... And what the hell is vocative? 4 cases again, why do I have to study this once again? So many unfamiliar rules, so many complicated words, we’ve all been through that. But what if we start looking for similarities where we only find difficulties and obstacles? We can create and develop new connections, and discover patterns so close to us that we often overlook them. Well, let’s make it clear – we will not overlook them anymore! Let’s reveal the power of an inner investigator to find and receive benefits from grammatical, phonological and mental similarities between different languages. Let’s learn them *per analogiam!*

## Bartosz Czekala



Bartosz Czekala is a mnemonist, a polyglot with advanced knowledge of 9 languages, and the main man behind [www.universeofmemory.com](http://www.universeofmemory.com). His main focus and biggest passion is memory improvement. He relentlessly tries to test to what degree his backed-by-science theories can accelerate knowledge acquisition, especially in the field of language learning.

He currently runs his own company, where he conducts in-company trainings and teaches at both academic and professional levels.

## Using Deep Learning (a.k.a. Deliberate Practice) To Accelerate Grammar Acquisition

*Friday, 9:00*

If we exclude just a handful of enthusiasts, we can definitely say that learning grammar is one of the least favorite activities of most language learners. It's the big, dark and ugly maze. You have to learn how to handle it. Otherwise, it will leave you scared and discouraged. The common knowledge has it that you need a plenty of time in order to learn your way around it. You have to fumble about in the dark until you finally crawl out of it. It goes without saying that the whole process takes a heavy toll on a language learner's motivation. But it doesn't have to be like that. The entire process can be accelerated at least several times thanks to deep learning (a.k.a. deliberate practice). It's the methodology which has been used by the world's top performers for over three decades. It helps you break grammar into easily digestible chunks which are easy to absorb. In other words, deep learning provides you with a step-by-step blueprint to go through any grammar in the most efficient manner. It's high time to introduce this methodology to the language learning community.

## Benny Lewis



Benny Lewis could only speak English at the age of 21, and had several other challenges that made language learning more difficult for him than it can be for most people. He has overcome these challenges though, to become a *National Geographic* Traveller of the Year, Irish Language Ambassador for the EU, author of the international best-selling book *Fluent in 3 Months* as well as

*Teach Yourself* published *Language Hacking* courses, and speaker of 11 languages at A2 through C2 levels. Also known as The Irish Polyglot, he has made it his mission to inspire as many adults as possible to get into language learning, regardless of their age, wealth, ability to travel, aptitude or other personal challenges. His blog is read by a million people a month, with over 300,000 following his weekly emails, and over 7.5 million views on his YouTube channel.

### **Daredevil language learning: How to turn your weaknesses into strengths**

*Friday, 17:00*

Language learning is hard enough for most people who don't feel they have the "knack" for it, but what if you are at a genuine disadvantage over others? What if you have a learning disability or hearing issues, or years of "proof" that you'll only achieve poor results in languages? These and several disadvantages can make you feel like you are even further set back than most and can never make progress in language learning. Benny Lewis has personally dealt with multiple setbacks that you'd never know watching his successes. In this talk, inspired by Marvel's blind but very capable superhero "Daredevil", he's happy to share his ways of turning several "weaknesses" that most people don't have to worry about, but that maybe you personally do, into actual advantages.

### **Benson Hoi**



Benson Hoi was born in Macau and raised in London and had a passion for languages from a very young age. Benson has a Master in Computer Science and Mathematics and a Graduate Certificate in Linguistics. He has worked as a software engineer and a development process coach for 6+ years. As an aspiring nomadic technology guy, his current gig is in Paris where he continuously seeks to improve his programming, language and personal skills.

He speaks Cantonese, Mandarin, English, French and Japanese. He is also conversational in Spanish and has dabbled in many more. His main web portal is [bensonhoi.com](http://bensonhoi.com).

## **Trust the Process: The only way to be fluent in any language**

*Sunday, 11:00*

Do you ever feel frustrated with your language learning? Do you ever feel that it is getting nowhere? Do you feel that you need an extra motivational boost?

With motivating and interactive exercises, this talk will introduce an intuitive and sustainable model of the language learning process. A few key principles will be explored and you will learn how to diagnose your own language learning, set realistic goals, and continuously improve. You will also appreciate a new and flexible mindset to approach language and general learning. Come to this talk to discover the ultimate secret on how to master any language frustration free!

## **Brian Loo Soon Hua**



A lifelong language learner, Brian speaks seven languages and is currently working on improving his competence in a couple of endangered languages. A former industrial food engineer, he currently co-manages Toledo Technical, a translation agency specialising in technical translations with an emphasis on cultural competence. He is currently busy writing his first fantasy novel.

## **An Introduction to Nootka, a Highly-Endangered Canadian Language**

*Sunday, 15:00*

Imagine a language where the single word  $\acute{n}up\eta ta\acute{n}a\eta\eta i\acute{c}aa\lambda a\eta$  means, "I am going to look for a small bag"! This fascinating language is called Nuuča̱a̱nuł or "Nootka" in English, and is currently spoken by only about 200 people on the west coast of Vancouver Island.

One of the most difficult languages to learn, Nuuča̱a̱nuł is extremely complex, both phonologically and morphologically and has been described as having no specific parts of speech. The language has many short suffixes that convey locative, verbal and nominal meanings that would be equivalent to separate words in other languages. A single word may contain as much information as an entire sentence in a European language.

This talk will serve as an introduction to an endangered language and culture with traditional worldviews vastly different from those in Asia and Europe.

## Cécile Plecenik



Currently working as a teachers' mentor for the OECD, Cécile Plecenik grew up in the French Loire Valley region, studied in Spain (philology in Granada and linguistics in Cadiz), and has had a few different jobs up till now: ride assistant at the London Eye, baker and school administrator in England; translator and University researcher in Spain; hotel receptionist and organic farmer in Italy; language school owner and pedagogical developer in Slovakia. She likes to volunteer with Roma and disabled people, to make videos... and to travel and learn languages, of course.

### Different language, different personality?

*Thursday, 17:00*

Researcher in Spain? Baker in England? Organic farmer in Italy? OECD mentor in Slovakia? How much can polyglots reinvent themselves in diverse linguistic surroundings? Do we have the exact same personality in the different languages we speak? Are our thinking patterns influenced by linguistic patterns? Let's embark on a little investigative journey and explore these questions together! In this talk, we will share our personal insight and discover the latest results of scientific research on the topic. If you are looking for an answer to the question "different language, different personality?", come along and find out!

## Cesco Reale, Dimitris Polychronopoulos



A scientific communicator, Cesco deals with games, languages and maths, creating festivals, exhibitions and conferences. He speaks more than 10 languages, including Latin and Esperanto, and holds the IPA certificate in phonetics. He is also the UN representative for the World Esperanto Association and the creator of Limbas, a language seminar in Italy.



Dimitris has a Master of International Studies and a Global Executive Master of Business Administration. He has lived in countries as diverse as Greece, Taiwan, Norway, France, Spain, the USA and the Philippines. He has travelled to more than 100 countries, all seven continents and speaks 14 languages at different levels. At the Polyglot Gathering 2016, he launched yozzi.com, a platform for people to practice writing and editing in their target languages, which aims to become the Lang-8 for advanced learners.

## **Strange and fascinating things from the zoo of languages**

*Sunday, 15:00*

How many times while learning a language have you thought: “Oh my God! This is hilariously awkward!” or “This rule is funnily absurd!” or “This word is charmingly unpronounceable!” We will see some of the strangest and most amazing things we have found learning languages, from bizarre sounds to incredible words, from rare verbal forms to headache syntaxes! Talk in English, flavoured with some Italian, Greek, Esperanto, Spanish and other spicy languages.

## **Charlotte Scherping Larsson**

See Charlotte’s description on page 20.

## **Singing in Swedish (dialects edition)**

*Saturday, 16:00*

The Scandinavian languages might all be seen as part of a dialect continuum, but in each country there are many quite distinct – and sometimes incomprehensible – dialects. The most compelling part of any language are the dialects and you will have the opportunity to try out at least two dialects during this workshop. You don’t have to know a lot of Swedish in order to sing in it. Together we’ll listen to some songs, compare them to standard Swedish, analyze them and sing them together. Learn how to sing typical Swedish songs like Köppäbävisan, sung in the dialect of Borlänge, as well as songs full of diphthongs from Gotland’s own inventive band Smaklösa. A truly unique opportunity for language lovers.

## Christian Koch



Christian Koch is an approved high-school teacher for French, Spanish and Italian. Currently, he works as a scientific assistant in linguistics and didactics of Romance languages at the German universities of Siegen and Duisburg-Essen.

### **Apprendre à lire le seselwa, le créole français des Seychelles, en trois quarts d'heure**

*Friday, 15:00*

Dans cet atelier pratique, nous nous intéresserons au seselwa, le créole des Seychelles, à travers la méthode de l'intercompréhension. Comme le lexique est majoritairement identique au français, nous devons apprendre à reconnaître ce lexique malgré les fortes transformations phonétiques et orthographiques. De plus, il y a quelques particularités grammaticales – conjugaison isolée, absence de certaines prépositions, etc. – qui causent peut-être quelques difficultés au début. Mais après une brève introduction aux caractéristiques linguistiques les plus importantes, nous nous mettrons à écouter et à lire des textes originaux en seselwa en voyant qu'avec une certaine connaissance linguistique, la lecture de cette langue n'est plus si compliquée. La lecture du seselwa donnera d'ailleurs accès à la lecture de pratiquement toutes les langues créoles à base lexicale française.

## Chuck Smith, Judith Meyer, Neil Roberts



Chuck Smith (Chief Technical Officer) is a former co-organizer of the Polyglot Gathering, contributor of Duolingo's Esperanto course and founder of the Esperanto Wikipedia, among other Esperanto and polyglot projects.

Judith Meyer (Backend Developer) is a computational linguist, a polyglot, former co-organizer of the Polyglot Gathering and author of many language books and language courses, such as her interactive website for learning Chinese, LearnYu.





Neil Roberts (Android Developer) worked for many years on the Gnome desktop system and Intel graphics drivers for Linux. He is the author of the PReVo dictionary app and one of the founders of the Esperanto radio station, Muzaiko.

## Amikumu Q&A

*Thursday, 16:00*

Imagine you're at one of the gates at the Bratislava airport with an hour to kill for your flight. Wouldn't you love to know that there's a bored polyglot a few gates down and that you could spend this time practicing Icelandic together? Well, Amikumu is a new app that helps you find language practice partners nearby, made by polyglots for polyglots for all 7,000+ languages. During the Polyglot Gathering this year, you can use Amikumu to search for fellow speakers from Aari to Zyphe Chin right here in Bratislava. Chuck Smith, Judith Meyer and Neil Roberts are all here and ready to answer all of your questions about the project and its future!

## Clémentine Duriez



Clémentine Duriez a 24 ans et habite à Lille, au nord de la France. Après avoir étudié le droit pendant 3 ans, elle a créé son association. Avec l'association Speak and Meet, elle organise plus de 5 soirées par mois pour permettre aux adultes de pratiquer les langues en s'amusant dans des bars, autour de jeux de société et de quiz. Elle intervient également à domicile pour adultes comme enfants avec de nombreuses activités telles que cuisine, DIY, karaoke in other languages. Always have fun while practicing languages. She speaks 4 languages: French as native language, then English and Spanish at school and she learned Polish by herself in Poland without lessons, just by having fun.

## Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis. Initiation au ch'ti, patois du Nord de la France

*Friday, 16:00*

*Bienvenue chez les Ch'tis.* Did you watch this movie? It took place where I live. If you thought French is hard to understand maybe you never spoke to a Ch'ti! We use strange words with a strong but nice accent. But don't worry, it's not that hard. Let's discover the unofficial language spoken in Northern France by people who used to work in mines. You will definitely have lot of fun trying to pronounce

this language. I will teach you words in Ch'ti and what they mean. You'll be able to understand some jokes and maybe sing in Ch'ti with me. Be careful, it's only spoken in Northern France, so don't try to speak with a person from Marseille, they'll never understand you. À Marseille, personne ne sait ce que veut dire le mot « dracher », mais toi tu le sauras bientôt ! Let's try!

### **Conor Clyne**



Conor Clyne is currently serving as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of the International Polyglot Society (IPS). He is also a blogger and Youtuber, known as the Language Tsar, focussing on language learning for traveling. Conor has lived in 8 countries and travelled to around 80 over the past 10 years, all while learning to speak more than 10 languages including French, German, Portuguese, Italian, Russian, Romanian, Dutch, Spanish, Ukrainian, Irish and Catalan, in addition to his native English.

### **The Future Role of the International Polyglot Society in Promoting Multilingualism**

*Sunday, 10:00*

The International Polyglot Society is a non-profit founded to promote polyglotism. In this presentation, I will give an overview of the Society's activities and how it will help promote polyglots and vice versa, how polyglots can promote their love of multilingualism through the Society.

### **Daniel Krasa, Elisa Polese**



It was at a very young age that Daniel Krasa found out that conversing in a foreign language can make life much easier. He has been learning languages ever since and counts more than 30 languages in his learning portfolio. After studying Arabic in Jordan he fell in love with India and spent a few years there, specializing in Northern-Indian languages such as Hindi, Urdu, Marathi and others.



Elisa Polese holds a BA and an MA in Translating and Interpreting and an MA in Teaching Foreign Languages. She speaks ten languages fluently and has some knowledge of another six. She has been teaching German, Italian, French, Spanish, English and Russian for more than 10 years. Recently she has started teaching multilingual courses.

## **Naples: a lively journey through Neapolitan culture, dance and dialect**

*Friday, 16:00*

Do you want to be able to speak a bit of one of the funniest Italian dialects? Do you want to know what is typical in possibly one of the most beautiful cities in the world, plunge into an emblematic landmark of multicultural European culture, and be able to dance some tarantella? And how about learning about some Neapolitan humour and lifestyle through movies and sketches? This and much more is awaiting you in this fun talk held by a Neapolitan globetrotter woman and an “adopted”

Neapolitan Austrian world citizen. Join us or, as they say in *Bella Napoli, Jammo jà!*

## **Daniel R.**

Daniel grew up in Italy and Germany, he studied Law and worked as a lawyer in the field of corporate law before applying for the Foreign Service. After postings in St. Petersburg and Tehran he now works in Berlin.

## **The Kaiser’s most talented polyglot – The extraordinary life of interpreter, diplomat and language nerd Emil Krebs, who mastered 68 languages**

*Saturday, 17:00*

Emil Krebs (1867-1930) is considered one of the most talented polyglots of all time. Born in Silesia, Krebs grew up in imperial Germany where he studied law and Chinese and finally became an interpreter for the German Foreign Service. Serving more than two decades in Beijing and later in Berlin, Krebs not only continued improving his language skills throughout his life but proved himself to be an astute observer of political affairs. What can we learn from this outstanding talent? And what does his biography tell us about diplomacy as a profession for language lovers?

## Daniela Maizner



Daniela Maizner hat ihre Sprachleidenschaft zum Beruf gemacht und arbeitet als Übersetzerin. Sie liebt Krimis, Duolingo sowie guten Kaffee und findet, dass fremdsprachiges Fernsehen und Häkeln besonders gut zusammenpassen.

### Mit Sprachzertifikaten auf zum nächsten Level – Motivation für das nächste Sprachprojekt

*Saturday, 12:00*

Wir alle kennen das Problem: Wenn wir eine neue Sprache lernen, sind wir enthusiastisch und Motivationsprobleme sind uns fremd. Aber kaum erreichen wir diese berühmte „gläserne Decke“, an der uns jeder kleine Fortschritt viel Mühe kostet, schwinden die Motivation und der Ehrgeiz. Zudem wird an dieser Stelle der Lernprozess immer unstrukturierter: Viele Lehrwerke enden bei B1/B2 und der allgemeine Rat für den weiteren Lernerfolg lautet: viel sprechen oder viel lesen. Gut gemeint und auch wahr, aber viele von uns brauchen mehr Struktur, um das Lernen effizient und effektiv fortzuführen.

Eine Möglichkeit, dem Lernprozess Struktur und vor allem ein konkretes Ziel zu verleihen, können Sprachzertifikate sein. Das erfolgreiche Bestehen einer solchen Prüfung ist dabei nur ein angenehmer Nebeneffekt. Ganz nach dem Motto „Der Weg ist das Ziel“ sprechen wir in diesem Vortrag darüber, wie solche Zertifikate gezielt eingesetzt werden können, um Sprachlernprojekte voranzutreiben, wir uns neue Motivation zu holen und Erfolgserlebnisse sichern.

## Dave Prine



Dave Prine is a huge language enthusiast and an endangered language advocate. He's transcribed Tunica texts, helped create children's stories in Plains Cree, and provided a voice in the Navajo dubbing of *Star Wars*. He's dabbled in over 40 languages, but he's currently focusing on quality over quantity. Except now he thinks Slovak would be useful, and he might need Thai and Hindi for summer

travel plans, and who doesn't love studying Hungarian? You can find him on his sorely neglected blog [www.polyglotsanonymous.com](http://www.polyglotsanonymous.com) or you can just hide in the bushes outside his house until he comes home.

## **Can Knowing Some K'iche' Save Your Life and Make You Rich? (Probably Not, But Why Take Chances?)**

*Friday, 15:00*

Have you ever tried to read the Maya Book of Creation but failed miserably? Or, more likely, have you ever been curious about any of the Mayan languages? If so, then this talk is for you.

K'iche' (also known as K'iche' Maya) is a vulnerable but living language spoken by an estimated one million people in Guatemala and around the world. It's no distant relative of Spanish, nor is it related to Quechua in any way. It's one of thirty Mayan languages, and it's unlike most languages you might have encountered. Its grammar starts off familiar, especially to those who have studied other languages, but K'iche' explodes into a form of communication that defies simple translation but provides beautiful and vivid expression.

This talk will give you insight into K'iche' culture, explore the Nahuala dialect, expose you to some basic grammatical concepts, and teach you some vocabulary and simple phrases. We'll look at an ancient text and listen to a modern take on K'iche'. We'll look at subtle shades of meaning and do our best to make sense of them. And we'll take a glimpse at the serendipitous and innovative way this language showed up on the speaker's radar.

## **Dimitris Polychronopoulos**

See Dimitris' description on page 27.

## **Introduction to the Norwegian language**

*Thursday, 10:00*

Why learn Norwegian? For anybody interested in moving to Norway for work opportunities, the Norwegian language is a must. Dimitris will talk about pronunciation in the Norwegian language, introduce a brief history of the Norwegian language, and explain how Norwegian ended up with two official versions of the language: Bokmal and Nynorsk. Learn about Norwegian grammar and spelling and an overview of resources for learning Norwegian, both inside and outside of Norway.

## Being Funny in a Foreign Language

*Sunday, 10:00*

Some humour is more visual, such as with Mr. Bean and Charlie Chaplin, which transcends language. However, when we speak different languages, we often find it difficult to say witty things that might roll off our tongue in our native languages. A lot of funny expressions, jokes and puns are only funny in one language and just cannot be translated to another. Please prepare in advance for this talk by bringing in some of your favourite untranslatable jokes, puns and funny expressions in any of these languages: Catalan, Danish, Dutch, English, French, German, Greek, Italian, Mandarin Chinese, Norwegian, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Swedish. The talk will take place in fourteen languages where we will learn jokes and puns in different languages from one another.

## Yozzi (start-up presentation)

*Saturday, 17:00*

Yozzi is a platform inspired by blending Lang-8 with Medium. At Yozzi you can submit articles of 500 words or more and participate in guest interviews in your target language. You can choose to have your articles picked up by search engines and link to your websites to help increase traffic to your website or choose to keep your article private so you can just share them with native speakers or social networks of your choice for feedback. There is comment system in Yozzi that allows users to provide feedback on your writing so you can improve your style and writing ability in your target languages.



### Intermediate and Advanced Language Learners

- Want to:
- improve your writing skills?
  - interact with a dynamic community of polyglots?
  - drive traffic to your language website?

Yozzi is *the* site for language blogging welcoming guest posts, interviews, and more in multiple languages. **Sign up today!**

## Elisabeth Dörrer



Lissie or Betka, as many Slovaks call her, is a freelance conference interpreter in Brussels. Her main hobbies apart from learning languages are DIY and doing volunteer work in a Slovak and a Spanish residence for elderly people. Over the past 4 years she has learnt about 40 Slovak folk songs and is still working on a small Spanish repertoire. She loves to sing! Are there any gifted guitar players out there willing to bring their instrument and accompany the singing workshop?

## Learning some fun Slovak folk songs

*Friday, 17:00*

- 1) Do you love to sing? Learn some fun Slovak folk songs with me! After all, we are in Slovakia! If you want to, we could even perform them.
- 2) Do you love to sing? Let's teach each other some fun songs in different languages. If you want to, we could even perform them.

## Simultandolmetschen ist nur ein Handwerk

*Thursday, 15:00*

Simultandolmetscher sind *keine* Fremdsprachengenies. Wie ihre tägliche Arbeit in den Europäischen Institutionen aussieht und wie sie überleben. Was diese Arbeit mir 32 Jahre lang gegeben hat. Der Vortrag ist interaktiv. Stellt mir so viele Fragen wie ihr wollt (auf Deutsch, Englisch, Französisch, Italienisch, Spanisch, Niederländisch, Slowakisch).

## Eriko Tamura



She has been always enthusiastic about learning Languages. She started her career by teaching physics and mathematics for adult students, then worked as a patent attorney for 7+ years, before deciding to take a long break. After a while, she started her own business and developed learning materials for improving TOEIC scores for Japanese students. She is a native Japanese speaker, and speaks English, Dutch and some Korean and Arabic. She has a BA in physics and an MSc in Astrophysics. Find her at [instagram.com/tokyo8](https://www.instagram.com/tokyo8), and [facebook.com/tamura.erico](https://www.facebook.com/tamura.erico).

## Introduction to Japanese

*Saturday, 11:00*

Japanese is quite different from western languages. In this workshop, we will take a quick look at Japanese pronunciation and three types of writing systems. We will practice Japanese pronunciation and Japanese alphabets with funny loanwords. You will be able to pronounce your own name like a native Japanese speaker, and write your own name in Japanese kana. Also you will be able to introduce yourself in Japanese.

## Ester Pantaleo



Ester Pantaleo is a scientific researcher (now a freelancer) with a background in Physics, who has worked with data coming from different fields. She is currently working on a project she proposed to the Wikimedia Foundation to visualize the etymology of words using an interactive tool.

## Etytree: a graphical multilingual etymology dictionary using data extracted from the English Wiktionary

*Friday, 9:00*

Interested in etymologies? In this talk I'm going to present a tool I am currently developing which is called "etytree" from etymology + tree. Etytree is a multilingual visual dictionary of etymology using data extracted from the English Wiktionary. It uses trees to represent words' ancestors, descendants and cognates, or the "genealogy" of words. This work has been funded by the Wikimedia Foundation through a 6 month IEG grant. After 6 months of work I have released a first version of etytree: <http://tools.wmflabs.org/etytree/> (using graphs instead of trees) and the associated database of more than 6 million etymological entries in more than 3,000 languages from the English Wiktionary.

## Fabien Snauwaert



Fabien is an aspiring polyglot and polymath with a dozen years of experience in the fields of business, coding, writing and teaching languages. He is the author of several language-learning methods. A native French speaker, he lives in Hungary, is married to a Russian citizen, and teaches English through software. He speaks English, French, Hungarian and Russian (and – if you trick him into it! – Spanish).

## Time Management for Language-Learners: More Focus, More Time, More Energy

*Saturday, 11:00*

With only 24 hours a day and a busy schedule, how can you make the most of every day to learn your new language? We will discuss simple techniques anyone can use to improve the quantity and the quality of their learning, in order to:

- Get more things done;
- Maintain our motivation through a feeling of achievement;
- Gauge our progress;
- Get perspective and feedback;
- Practice every day and every night.

Taken from the world of personal development and productivity, these techniques are designed to improve your discipline and help you reach your long-term language goals – without getting lost along the disappointing paths of procrastination, distractions and dilettantism.

## Fiel Sahir



A breaker of every stereotype one can give (except that he can't drive and wears glasses), Indonesian-American Fiel Sahir is a classical guitar performer, teacher, and language enthusiast hailing from New York City. He holds a BM from the New England Conservatory studying under polyglot pedagogue Eliot Fisk (the last student of Andrés Segovia) and is currently pursuing his Master's under Joaquín Clerch in Düsseldorf, Germany. Because of

his Indonesian heritage he has connected with Polyglot Indonesia and serves as a Director of International Outreach and Partnerships. He is also a believer in the power of speech and teaches others how to love the world out loud through con-

versation. With the belief that it takes no more than 15 minutes a day, the method and adventure can be found at [between3worlds.com](http://between3worlds.com).

### **The Indonesian Language 101**

*Thursday, 11:00*

Indonesia is the world's most important country that you've never heard of. With 17,000 islands, 300 ethnic groups, and 700 different languages and dialects, who wouldn't want to visit? It's language enthusiast heaven.

There's one problem. Not many Indonesians speak great English and not many English speakers speak great Indonesian. How do you connect the divide? When people do learn Indonesian, they sound like a textbook. Indonesians are easy to impress, but if you want to really get to know us, you have to speak like us.

Refuse to be written off as a *bule* (foreigner) and charged extra for your souvenirs! Learn to understand Indonesian culture in a way that will make you fit in, rather than sound like a news presenter. Most importantly in this course, we'll learn why and how to learn Indonesian. To Indonesia and beyond!

### **Understanding Asian Culture and Origins**

*Thursday, 15:00*

The continent of Asia has always been a land full of mystery and secrets to be uncovered. Even with the effect of globalization, the culture of its people isn't always easy to decipher. Whether you're interested in K-Pop, Gamelan, or Anime there are a plethora of things to sift through. Do I really have to take off shoes before entering a house? Is hierarchy really that big a deal in society? And why oh why do they slurp their noodles? As a child of immigrants, I never understood why my parents would pinch me in the presence of guests or tell me it was rude to use my feet to close the fridge. As someone who straddles the East and West I have learned to accept both cultures and live in between them. Together, we will answer the big question of "why" that is often ignored in Asian culture. Knowing these little cultural tidbits will open your eyes to understanding the East, and its peoples in a way that will make you knowledgeable, popular, and aware wherever you are.

### **How to Love out Loud Through Language**

*Friday, 12:00*

We all believe in "making the world a better place." We live our lives repeating this

phrase, but lack a plan of action. What if you don't need a plan? What if I told you, you already have what you need? People are awesome, and what wouldn't you give to learn how to connect with people? This can be a potential date, a person you want to befriend, the homeless guy on the street, doesn't matter. Simply being interested in languages empowers you to talk to people. Even if you don't share a language in common, I'll show you that you can do it! Whether you speak Zulu, Indonesian or Nahuatl, people are dying for love. Together, we can restore faith in humanity by loving out loud through language. We're going to learn that the world needs us (polyglots) to spread joy and wonder through our passionate hearts. If we put the information in our heads to use, we'll see that our love for the world not only makes a huge difference, but has people smiling like never before.

## FlashSticks (start-up presentation)

*Saturday, 17:00*

Flashsticks began when Richard, one of our original founders, was working in a business park in Spain. He needed to learn Spanish quickly and although he was taking lessons, he was looking for a way to keep progressing in between. Richard knew from his previous experience with languages that unless he could find a simple way to keep improving he would likely struggle to keep going. He started handwriting Spanish words on sticky notes. His notes helped him keep learning almost effortlessly each day. Different coloured notes helped him to remember the gender of each word. FlashSticks for more languages are on their way. Flashsticks is currently running free interactive language lessons in UK schools.

The image displays the FlashAcademy app interface on three smartphones. A green banner at the top reads "FlashAcademy™ Get fluent faster". The app shows a lesson for "Bonjour, France!" with a progress bar and various interactive elements like "The Basics", "Food & Drink", and "Family, Pets & Friends". Below the phones, several features are listed with icons: "5 minute lessons", "Quick-fire word games", "Native tutor videos", "Object translator", "Fun flashcards", and "Compete with friends". At the bottom, there are icons for downloading the app on the App Store and Google Play, along with cartoon avatars of a woman and a man.

## Florian Heller



Florian Heller is a young professional mentalist and illusionist from France who travels Europe doing shows in 4 languages. Languages are since his early teens a passion to him and there's always a new challenge to get on or a new language to learn. His work on self-discipline and time management has helped him greatly in the launch of his business and language learning and now he would like to help you getting better at it!

### **The Magic of Getting the Most out of One's Time: Learn to Better Learn Languages!**

*Saturday, 12:00*

Have you ever desired to have more time for language learning? Have you ever wondered why you had trouble sticking to a schedule and why you dropped a language after a certain time? Have you ever wished you could be more disciplined and work better? Well, here are the secrets to time management and self-discipline! Learn to stay focused on your goals on the long term and organize your time and day accordingly to learn more of a language or just more languages! The talk will be held equally in English, German, French, and Italian, and lecture notes will be provided in the language of your choice so that you can follow, and keep a trace of the talk!

## Gabriel Gelman



Gabriel Gelman is a passionate language learner that proves that you don't need to have endless time to learn one or even several languages. With time saving techniques he managed to learn several languages while never actually engaging in a language related career. While being an entrepreneur and running a digital advertising agency, he combined his online work and his passion for language learning in his German language learning blog [sprachheld.de](http://sprachheld.de). There, he teaches his methods of learning a language to fluency without actually requiring lots of time. Currently, he speaks six languages fluently with yet more to come.

## Language learning for the lazy, minimize effort, maximize impact

*Saturday, 15:00*

Duolingo, Babbel, vocabulary, podcasts, YouTube, grammar and the list goes on and on. Do you feel like there is too much effort, thinking and organizing required when learning a foreign language? Would you like to focus on activities that work quicker without having to do lots of work? Then you're probably like me. I love languages but I hate that it seems to come with so much effort. So many things to learn and study. In the years I have cut down on many activities that I didn't like and that were too difficult for me and started focusing on activities that bring great results without the need to concentrate or work too hard to achieve them. In this talk, I will present my 5 daily habits that are quite easy to implement and aren't that difficult to do. And how you can learn a language even if you are too lazy to use 100 apps, memorize thousands of unnecessary words and study grammar book after grammar book.

## Gareth Popkins



Gareth Popkins has a doctorate in Russian history from the University of Oxford and taught the subject through the medium of Welsh at the University of Aberystwyth. He lived in Germany for several years. After training as a lawyer, he worked in the Moscow office of an international law firm. A London-based language enthusiast, his "best" foreign languages are Russian, Welsh, German and French and he has studied others including, most recently, Basque. He blogs at [Howtogetfluent.com](http://Howtogetfluent.com).

## "Fluent in three decades?" The joys of life-long language learning for beginners....and old hands

*Saturday, 11:00*

We live in a world which seems ever more rushed. The pressure is on to achieve more, faster. As language learners we are often on the look out for ways to get quick results. Of course we should try to optimise the path to a good "working knowledge", but then what?

For those of us in wealthy societies and blessed with good health, life is – on average – long. How should we approach our journey with this in mind? If you're young (or not so young but new to language learning), what language choices can you make now that will bring many benefits years down the line? How can you over-

come the challenges that come when “life” gets in the way, as it will? If you’re an older hand, like me, how have you built languages into your life? Have you found your approach changing with the passage of time? What are the special (perhaps unexpected) pleasures of a lifetime’s engagement? Let’s take a step back, share our different perspectives and enjoy the long view together.

### **Gonzalo Rojas Oberreuter**



Gonzalo is a Franco-Chilean guy who was born in Moscow, totally in love with foreign languages. He lives in Paris with his wife and two kids who can hardly talk in Spanish. Japanese has been his first serious challenge and he took it as his major field of study and got the opportunity to take part in a one-year exchange in Osaka, where he really reached a decent level and learned to love this amazing culture and people. Not using it on a daily basis, his Japanese may be rusty; nonetheless the way he learns it helps him to feel confident with language learning. Let him show you what he went through.

### **Hiragana: flash memorization**

*Thursday, 17:00*

When I first started to learn Japanese, the course had already started for 2 weeks, so I went to my aikido teacher, who happen also to be an interpreter in Japanese: I taught myself the very weird way hiraganas work in twenty minutes... if you are not afraid of being ridiculous and want to give a try, come an experience an actor studio-like method...

### **Grigory Kazakov**



Grigory Kazakov, PhD, originally of Moscow State University, is (Full) Professor at the Department of Foreign Languages and Linguistics, Moscow University for the Humanities (Russia). He is secretary of Amici Linguarum (Friends of Languages), co-founder of Tokyo Circle of Polyglots and Language Enthusiasts (2014-2016), and member of some other linguistic associations. He has published research papers on language learning and polyglottery and was on the organizing committee of the first academic conference on polyglottery, “Multilingual Proficiency: Language, Polyglossia and Polyglottery” (New York, 2013).

## What experimental polyglottery tells us about

Thursday, 9:00

This talk is a distillation of findings in polyglottery as a science whose object is multilingual knowledge and which tries to understand the cognitive processes that enable polyglots to achieve their outstanding results. I will try to show what light polyglots' practical experience sheds on the nature of language learning, and will address such questions as what a polyglot is, what it means to know a language, how language knowledge can be qualified, how fast a functional command of a foreign language can be attained, how many languages one can know and how proficiency in foreign languages can be acquired more efficiently. I will propose a tentative definition of a polyglot and will mention such things as "the law of seven", "the main law", the "formula" and the stages of language learning, the hierarchy of learning materials, and the range of time investments needed for polyglottery. I will partially draw on and present the recently published proceedings of the conference, *Multilingual Proficiency: Language, Polyglossia and Polyglottery*, held by The American Society of Geolinguistics in New York City in September 2013 (with the participation of A. Arguelles, A. Rawlings, T. Doner and others).

## Idahosa Ness



Idahosa Ness is the founder of [www.MimicMethod.com](http://www.MimicMethod.com), a site dedicated to helping people learn languages by ear. He was born and raised monolingual in the east coast of the United States. Then he learned his first foreign language of Spanish when he was 17 years old, studying abroad in Mexico. Since then he has also learned French, Portuguese, German and Mandarin Chinese. Idahosa came up with the idea for The Mimic Method while studying percussion in Rio de Janeiro in 2010. He had an intuition that the number one thing slowing down language learners was an inability to hear and pronounce the sounds of their target language. But he couldn't figure out how to help people overcome this hurdle.

Then one day on a bus back from drum practice, he had an epiphany: "You can learn pronunciation in a foreign language using the same techniques musicians use to learn musical instruments!" From that insight, Idahosa invented a series of music-inspired pronunciation courses and launched his business.

So far, The Mimic Method has helped thousands of people from around the world

perfect their hearing and pronunciation and learn languages by ear.

### **Learning by Eye vs. Learning by Ear: Which is better?**

*Saturday, 10:00*

Talk description: In almost every language-learning program out there, you start by learning to read and write. Then you learn new vocabulary by focusing on their visual symbols (i.e. spelling or strokes). In other words, most adults learn language by eye. But some programs don't start with reading and writing. Instead, they start with hearing and pronunciation. With this approach, you don't learn new vocabulary by focusing on the symbols; you learn new vocabulary by focusing on the sounds. We call this approach "Learning by Ear." In this talk, Mimic Method founder Idahosa Ness argues that learning a language by Ear helps you learn faster, understand more, and speak with a better accent.

### **Irena Dahl, Kristoffer Broholm, Karl-Erik Wångsted**



Irena Dahl, Kristoffer Broholm and Kalle Wångsted live in Norway, Denmark and Sweden respectively and speak the majority language in their country. They also speak a multitude of other languages, but uses a mix of Swedish, Norwegian and Danish when speaking amongst themselves. They are all deeply involved and interested in the polyglot and language learning community.

### **De skandinaviska/skandinaviske språken/språkene/sprog**

*Thursday, 17:00*

What Scandinavian language is the best? Why would you learn a Scandinavian language, and how similar and different are they really? This is a conversation between three people speaking three separate languages about the way people in Scandinavia communicate with each other, what is easy and what is difficult and of course which language to learn for non-scandinavian speakers.

# LANGFEST MONTRÉAL

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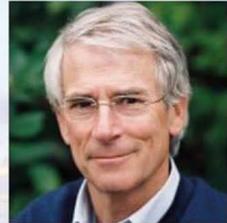
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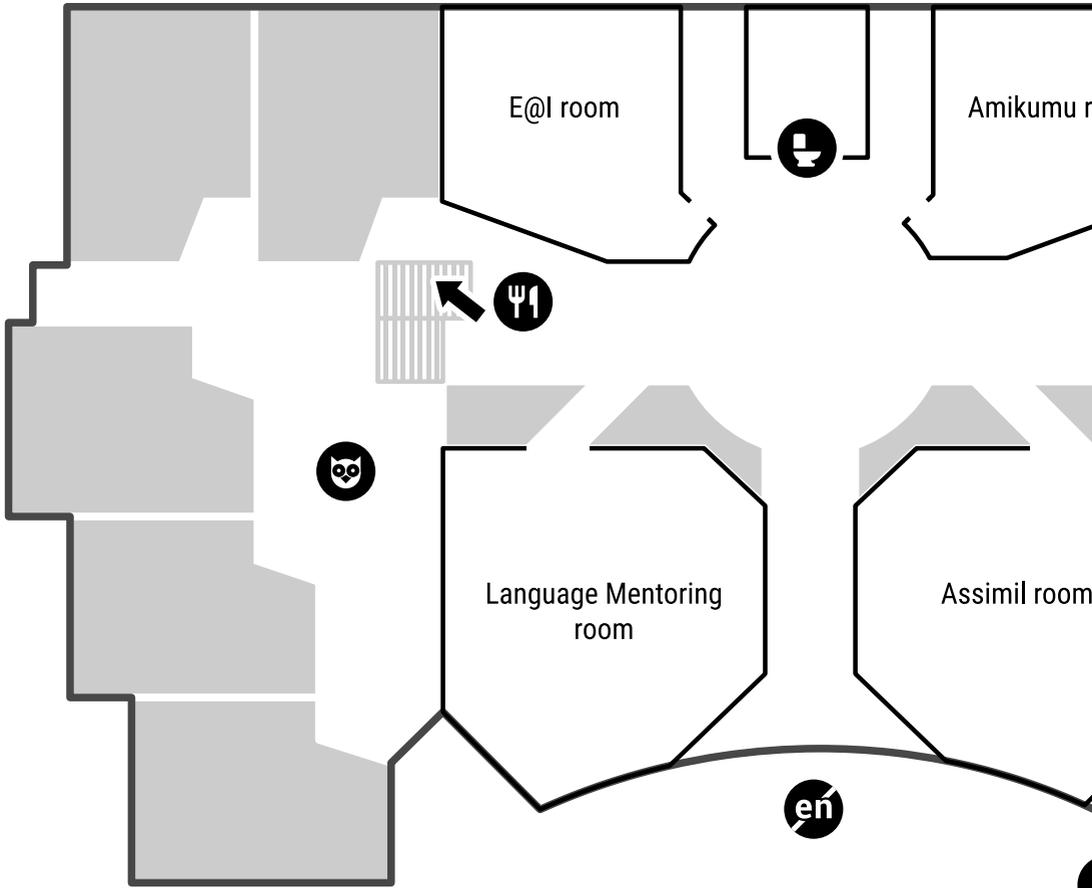
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# POLYGLOT GATHERING

# MAP OF THE GA



## Legend



Reception / informations



Canteen



Game zone



Ash bin



Buffet



Coffee break



Concert hall



Toilet



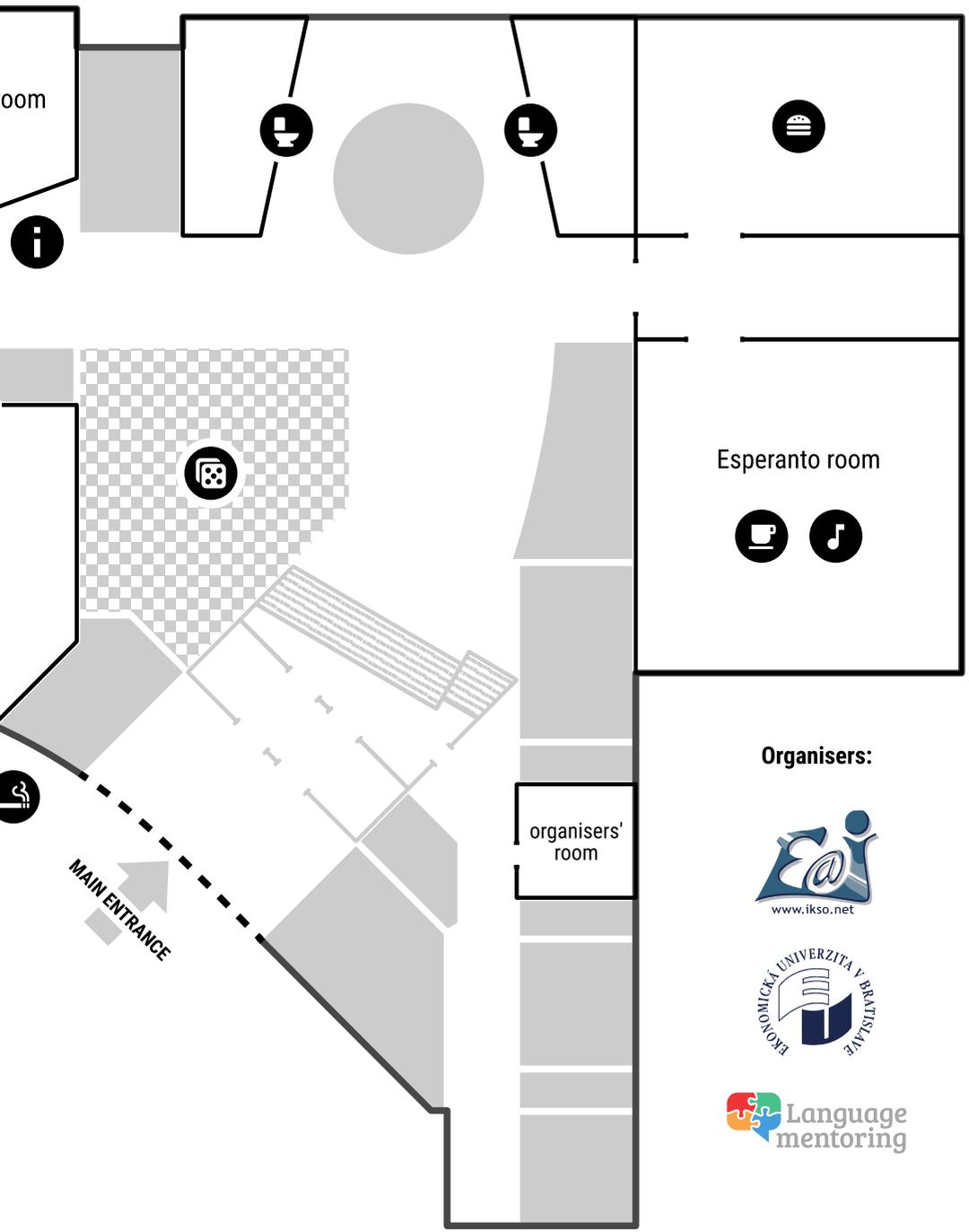
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No-English zone

# GATHERING AREA

BRATISLAVA, 31<sup>ST</sup> MAY - 4<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2017



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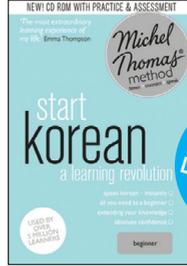
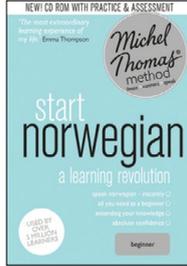
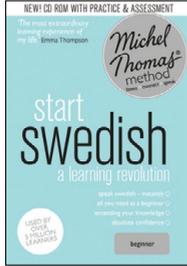
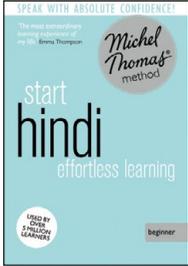
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## Ivan Kupka



Ivan Kupka is a Slovak mathematician. He is an avid reader and author of two books on language learning. He speaks 5 languages. The number of languages in which he read at least 10 books is 10. He is a couch potato, but he lived and worked one year abroad – in France – and he likes to frequent second-hand bookshops in Prague and Vienna.

### **Way of the Peaceful Bookworm (How to read and read and read – and learn some languages)**

*Sunday, 10:00*

Are you a bookworm? Do you spend too much time reading? Do you have too little time for improving other language skills? Don't worry. Just keep reading – in a little bit different way.

- How to harmonize your passion for reading with your language learning?
- Reading versus pronunciation, grammar, vocabulary, conversation, writing skills.
- One minute rapid reading course.
- Cool books by (on) polyglots in 7+ languages.
- Share your best reading tips with us.

## Jan Berkel



As a software developer, Jan is interested how he can use his skills to support his other passions, languages and learning. He realized that to build new learning tools we first need better and more varied data; hence his interest in open content projects like Wiktionary.

### **Learn a language by building a dictionary**

*Thursday, 9:00*

Try to imagine a giant dictionary containing all existing words, in all possible languages. It's the ambitious goal of Wiktionary, a collaborative dictionary which isn't quite as famous (yet) as its better known sister, Wikipedia. This workshop will show how language enthusiasts can become part-time lexicographers to help achieve this goal while learning a few things along the way.

## Ján Figel'



In May 2016 Ján Figel' was nominated by the European Commission as the first Special Envoy for promotion of freedom of religion or belief (FoRB) outside the European Union. His mandate represents a new task to engage in this sensitive area mainly through international cooperation and development aid policy of the EU. Figel often underlines that FoRB is an essential value for human dignity everywhere, for peace and justice in the world. His role

is to work closely with other institutions within the EU (EEAS, Council, Parliament) and Member States especially in most critical countries. He named several regions as his priority: Middle East, especially Iraq and Syria, Northern and Central Africa, South Eastern and Southern Asia. His mandate includes Special Envoy's reporting within the regular dialogue of the EU with churches and religious communities based on Art. 17 of the Lisbon Treaty.

Ján Figel' is an experienced Slovak and European politician. He was Slovakia's Chief Negotiator and the first EU Commissioner responsible for education, culture, multilingualism and youth policies (2004 – 2009) and Deputy Prime Minister (2010 – 2012) and Vice-President of the National Council (2012 – 2016).

### **“Diversity and Unity: For effective multilingualism in Europe”**

*Thursday, 9:00*

He will take a brief look at the current state of the EU, emphasizing the importance of multilingualism in the EU, the involvement of citizens in European integration and the need to begin building a common European identity in harmony with national and regional identities. He will inform on activities while he was EU Commissioner (2004 – 2009) for promotion of practical multilingualism in the EU, as well as on improving foreign language learning based on the decision of the European Council meeting in Barcelona in 2002. As there has been no improvement in language learning, he will give a view on ways to achieve the EU goals in the future. He will express his opinion on conclusions and recommendations of the “Nitra Declaration”, and documents to three themes produced by the language conference of the Visegrád countries (Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia) on “Perspectives of language communication in the EU” in the city of Nitra on 28-29 July 2016 as an event of the Presidency of Slovakia in the EU Council, which is an initiative contribution of Slovakia to the on-going discussion on the future of Europe.

## Ján Keresty

Ján Keresty (Slovakia) is a teacher of French, Spanish and Russian at the University of Economics in Bratislava. He graduated in Russian, French, English, Spanish and Romanian philology at the Comenius University in Bratislava. He works as tourist guide and a translator mostly for film festivals.

### Learning one language with the help of another

*Friday, 10:00*

The way of using the words, patterns, and structures the learners of a language know from another foreign language they know well (or at least speak at a certain level) to unveil hidden similarities and help the learners understand grammar or remember words and phrases of a new language through analogy. Cases that work and cases that don't (+ reasons why).

## Jan van der Aa, Lucas Bighetti



We were always bad at languages at school. At age 18, we both only spoke our native languages and a little English that we learned at school.

Now, after more than 10 years of research, testing different methods and learning from the world's most successful language learners, we've found a method that has helped us to learn more than 10 languages.

Jan and Lucas are the founders of LanguageBoost.

LanguageBoost helps people to learn languages online faster than ever before.

### How to get the most out of your online language classes

*Friday, 11:00*

Thanks to the internet, the way the world learns languages has changed dramatically. Ten years ago, we had to look for local language schools or bookstores; now the internet allows us to have access to an almost unlimited number of language resources. Technology even allows us to take online classes with native speakers on websites like italki.com. This new way of learning languages is more flexible, more personalized, and cheaper. Many people find it more effective; and we agree.

The problem of learning a language online for beginners is that often, they don't know exactly what to do during their classes.

In this talk, we'll show you effective techniques and convenient tools to get the most out of your language classes. What you learn will help you become confident in your new language faster than ever before.

### **Jennifer Geacone-Cruz**



Jennifer is a lifelong language obsessive who started to teach herself Japanese at the age of 16. She went on to pursue a combined M.A./M.Sc. in Psycholinguistics and Cognitive Science, then went on to practice Applied Language Acquisition and Curriculum Design at Tokyo's Waseda University, where she taught at the School of International Liberal Studies. She is the Content Director at Lingvist.

#### **AI and the Polyglot: Perfect Together**

*Friday, 15:00*

A large part of Jennifer's job is to help people understand the science behind language learning, how Lingvist uses this science to help them, and to motivate them to learn. In this talk Jennifer will give an overview of how AI can support polyglots in finding the shortest route to a new language and how technology can help spread the love for languages among those who never thought they would learn one.

### **Joanna van Schaik**



Joanna van Schaik is a polyglot and trans woman from the Netherlands. She is also an iTalki teacher, helping people learn Dutch, English, and occasionally Russian. She is a staunch advocate for the inclusiveness towards LGBTI people in the polyglot community. Her languages include her native Dutch and English and a host of other languages after travelling the world for almost two years, including Spanish, Russian, Swedish, Romanian, Esperanto, Mandarin Chinese, French, German and more. In her spare time she enjoys reading, watching football matches and learning more languages than you could possibly imagine.

#### **Gender Pronouns in Language: A Guide for LGBTI Polyglots And Their Allies**

*Friday, 16:00*

This talk is the ultimate guide to figuring out the gender pronoun rules in several languages – and how to improve them and update them for use in modern soci-

ety. LGBTI polyglots frequently run into the issue of how to use gender pronouns properly, as some languages do not include non-binary pronouns – and some languages don't even distinguish between masculine and feminine! In this talk, Joanna van Schaik, a trans woman and polyglot, will shine her light on the use of gender pronouns, and discuss the new trends of non-binary pronouns for inclusiveness in several languages, such as Esperanto and Swedish. This talk is intended to be multilingual, so please, bring your grammar books and enjoy the ride!

## Jozef Reinvarť



Jozef Reinvarť (1951), Senior Counsellor of the Ministry of Foreign and European Affairs of Slovakia, studied international business at the University of Economy in Bratislava. He has had 38 years of experience in international relations, 24 years of which in diplomacy. Since 1997 he has concentrated on the process of European integration. Since 2004 he was active in the all-society discussion platform in Slovakia "National Convention on EU", in which he was a Chairman of the WG on Language policy. He is a member of European Esperanto Union (EEU) and Association for European Awareness. He represents the EEU among 29 NGOs, members of the European Civil Society Platform for Multilingualism established by European Commission. He deals with language and cultural problems in EU, published many articles and reports on these issues and made presentations in many international conferences and seminars organised by the EU, UN and NGOs.

## The need for a radical change in traditional EU language policy

*Thursday, 15:00*

He will draw attention on 15 years of unsuccessful support for language learning in EU and an ambitious recommendation of EU politicians at the European Council in Barcelona in 2002, that all EU citizens should master at least two foreign languages in addition to mother tongue. Their intention was positive to motivate citizens to study foreign languages and extend multilingualism in EU but not consulted with linguists and citizens. If EU wants successfully continue in the European integration, involve citizens and strengthen their European awareness and identity, it must change the existing liberal market language policy (favouring English) and replace it with a new, equitable and effective language policy. He will point out that the dominance of English hinders teaching, use and development of other EU languages. He will

inform on a EU paradox between the language equality of citizens *de jure*, according to the valid legislation and *de facto* a selection of languages in everyday practice, according to the size of a country, its economic strength, number of inhabitants, etc. He will point out, that linguists have not put forward proposals yet on how essentially to improve teaching of foreign languages and language skills of all citizens, including ones not talented in languages. He will brief on language policy activities in Slovakia since 2004 and present conclusions of the language policy conference of V4+ countries in Nitra last July within the Slovak Presidency in the EU Council.

### Jozef Tancer



Jozef Tancer, Assoc. Professor for German literature at the Comenius University Bratislava, head of Department of German, Dutch and Scandinavian Studies, deals with the history of literature and culture in German speaking countries as well as with oral language history and the research of multilingual language biographies in Slovakia. He published books and articles on German periodical press in Central Europe and travel literature. His recent monograph focused on multilingual situation in Bratislava in the inter-war period (*Rozviazané jazyky. Ako sme hovorili v starej Bratislave*, 2016).

### Das mehrsprachige Bratislava oder Warum macht es keinen Sinn, die Sprachen zu zählen

Sunday, 15:00

Der Beitrag diskutiert die mehrsprachige Kommunikation im Bratislava der Zwischenkriegszeit. Statt einer messbaren Sprachkompetenz soll das individuelle Sprachrepertoire der Bewohner dieser Stadt analysiert werden.

### Kamil Klemsa



Kamil is a freelancer who recently moved from the corporate sector. He found passion for learning kind of exotic languages, such as Norwegian and Indonesian. He loves travelling. Last year he travelled in 9 countries. Most of the time he spent in the Czech Republic, Norway, and Indonesia. On his journeys he works, does a remote work, or participate in volunteering projects. He says that there is no better time for learning languages than it is right now.

## **Norwegian – a comprehensive guide on how to learn the language in 5 months**

*Saturday, 15:00*

Norwegian (norsk) is a small language spoken by only 5 million people. It is mutually intelligible with other Scandinavian languages, Swedish and Danish. There are two official written forms of Norwegian – Bokmål used by 80% of the Norwegian population, and Nynorsk used by the rest of it.

However, contrary to other languages such as Czech, there is no standard of spoken Norwegian, which means most Norwegians speak their own dialects.

If your motivation for learning Norwegian is that you want to visit Norway, travel in Scandinavia, work there, or be different and learn something special, I have a good message for you: It can be both easy and fun.

I will speak about how I learned Norwegian in 5 months. This time I tried out something new in terms of methods and tools. First, I learned the differences in pronunciation compared to languages I had already spoken, such as e.g. the consonants ø, æ, and å. Second, I learned 600 most spoken words that make up to 70% of any language. Then, using free of charge on-line courses I went through the basic grammar and listening exercises. Finally, I travelled and worked in Norway for three months and spoke the language.

Learn Norwegian, travel and work in a beautiful country with the highest salaries in the world! I will show you how I did it and which tools I used.

## **Katarína Nevrlová**



Katarína Nevrlová is a teacher of Slovak language as a foreign language with 15 years' teaching and overall work in a multicultural environment with international students at the university, organizing "Slovak language at the Summer School of Slovak Language and Culture", preparing internal materials, with the participation (and presentation) of Priorities in teaching methods – their application and comparison of various methods. She

has prepared and organized excursions for students and special courses for Slovak compatriots living abroad, worked on the development and the reviews of the teaching materials at all levels. She was a project manager and co-author of the texts and exercises for the successful multilingual website [www.slovake.eu](http://www.slovake.eu).

## Slovak as a foreign language – theory and practice go “hand in hand”

Sunday, 11:00

First of all I would like to introduce you to the Institute for Language and Academic Preparation of Foreign Students (UJOP), part of the Centre of Continuing Education (CĎV), as an important part of The Comenius University in Bratislava. Its main activity is preparing foreign students, Slovak Government Scholarship holders, for university studies in the Slovak language in the Slovak Republic. In the field of teaching Slovak as a foreign language, it has a dominant position in the Slovak education market. Its work is based on many years of practical experience in helping foreigners adapt to life in Slovakia and the cross-cultural aspects of life in different countries. I would like to present a talk to you about how we teach in our classes with students from all over the world with varied language backgrounds, what methods we use and which are the best. A part of my talk I will dedicate time to the interesting topics about making mistakes and errors during the learning process and if it matters or not. I am going to mention a little bit about the profile of good language learners. And finally how important motivation is and how teachers can have an effect on it.

## Kelvin Jackson, Philip Newton



Kelvin has been interested in languages, linguistics, and con-languing for a bit more than 11 years, and has been involved in the greater polyglot community and the Klingon community for the past two. They are currently studying Finno-Ugric Linguistics at the University of Turku in Finland, and appreciating the gender-neutral nature of the Finnish pronoun system.

## Introduction to Klingon

Saturday, 17:00

If you’ve watched *Star Trek* (and even if you haven’t), you are probably already familiar with Klingons – warlike, humanoid aliens with ridged foreheads. Although the Klingon species is fictional, their language – *tlhIngan Hol* – is very real, and has a small but vibrant speaker community that hangs out on various internet fora, as well as organizing meetups in the USA and Germany. Linguistically, Klingon draws from several natural language sources, and also incorporates numerous puns in its vocabulary (i.e. *QeD* “science”, from “QED”; *’lw* “blood”; *’uH* “to be hungover”). Marc Okrand, the creator of Klingon, intentionally designed the phonology and syntax

to be as alien (to anglophones) as possible, while remaining usable by humans. Thus, the default word order is OVS, and there are numerous suffixes indicating modality (-*lah* "can"), qualification (-*qoq* "so-called"), and other categories traditionally expressed analytically in European languages. This workshop will be accessible to Star Trek fans and non-fans alike. Come sharpen your linguistic bat'leth by learning a bit of the Warrior's Tongue! *ghojlu'meH QaQ jajvam! Qapla'!*

## Kerstin Cable



Kerstin is the writer and educator behind [www.fluentlanguage.co.uk](http://www.fluentlanguage.co.uk), a website helping everyone build a language learning habit. She is a trained translator and author of the books *Fluency Made Achievable* and *The Vocab Cookbook*. Kerstin is a native German speaker and comes from the beautiful Moselle valley. She studied 6 languages in Germany and then packed them up and moved to England, where she added her most recent language crush, Welsh.

## Yes, You Can Be The Person Who Talks to Anyone! (Speaking Techniques in Other Languages)

Friday, 12:00

We all get shy when it comes to speaking to people in our target languages. In this talk, I'll share a few strategies and ideas for making it easier to speak to people in your target language... because connection is what it's all about.

## Lindsay Williams (formerly Dow)



Lindsay Williams is the language-obsessed chica behind *Lindsay Does Languages*, an online language tuition company and blog dedicated to inspiring independent language learners and online teachers to succeed when doing it solo. She currently lives in England but in 2017 will be embarking on a round the world trip to discover languages and film the journey, in particular Dobuan in Papua New Guinea. To find out more, visit [lindsaydoeslanguages.com](http://lindsaydoeslanguages.com).

## The Joy of Mistakes & The Beauty of Imperfection

*Thursday, 10:00*

Mistakes suck, right? Mistakes = failure and failure = BAD LANGUAGE LEARNER! And imperfection? Well, if you're not spouting off literature in a flawless accent after 3 weeks then you may as well stamp 'Failure' on your forehead and call it a day. So what do we do? Avoid mistakes at all costs. Not open our mouths until we're sure what will come out will be perfect. Well...I disagree. This past year, I've been on a mission to make as many mistakes as possible in the languages I've been learning, even setting myself mistake goals. But why? And how has this made me a better language learner? Come join me at this talk to learn the joy of mistakes and the beauty of imperfection, and leave with a refreshing view to inspire a new approach to your language learning.

### Lýdia Machová



Lýdia is a professional conference interpreter and language mentor from Slovakia and one of the two head organizers of the Polyglot Gathering 2017. Last year, she started a project called Language Mentoring, in which she's helping people learn languages by themselves rather than expect to be taught by teachers. She takes her inspiration from the way polyglots learn languages. Her mission is to change the way people learn languages, especially using the possibilities of the Internet, and she's already helped several hundreds of Slovaks achieve that. She enjoys learning a new language to a B2+ level every two years. In her free time, Lýdia is a passionate traveler.

## Ten things polyglots do differently

*Friday, 10:00*

There seems to be a gap between the way polyglots learn languages and the way they are taught in most language courses. Why is that? And what exactly makes polyglots' ways of learning languages different? Lýdia's mission as a language mentor is to help people learn languages more effectively by applying learning strategies that polyglots use. In this talk, she'll provide a few insights on where the methods of polyglots and of foreign language teachers seem to differ. On her tour of live lectures in 9 Slovak cities, Lýdia presented these ideas to more than 1,700 people and she's helped hundreds of Slovaks change their approach to learning foreign languages by applying polyglots' principles in practice.

## **Madeline Vadkerty**



Madeline Vadkerty has used her language skills in many ways over the course of her career. She interpreted into and out of English for survivors of human rights abuses in French, Spanish and Russian at Advocates for Survivors of Torture and Trauma in Washington, DC and Baltimore, Maryland. She also used her skills in French, Spanish, Russian, Italian, Czech, Slovak, Serbian/Croatian, Polish, German, Yiddish and Ukrainian to catalog and describe oral histories and archival documents at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington, DC. At the US Department of State (Washington, DC), she worked on international exchange programs for leaders in Western and Eastern Europe, the former USSR and Latin America. She has also owned two private companies, one in Washington, DC, the other in Bratislava, Slovakia. She is from the United States and is currently living in Bratislava, Slovakia.

## **Using Language Skills for Good: Interpreting for Survivors of Torture and Trauma**

*Sunday, 16:00*

If you are searching for a meaningful career using your language skills and have an interest in social justice and helping others, you will not want to miss this talk about community interpreting for survivors of torture and war trauma. Community interpreting is a relatively new discipline that is outpacing traditional job growth in countries where there are more and more immigrants and refugees needing all kinds of social services. During this talk, we will explore what it is like to interpret for survivors of torture and be part of a team of people combining their skills to improve people's lives.

## **Małgorzata Długosz**

Małgorzata is a German philology student on the Jagiellonian University in Cracow. She is very interested in German literature and history of literature. The main aim of her work and study is to become an interpreter. She spends her free time expanding her knowledge about arts and theater. Apart from her current studies, she thinks about finding her way of life in this kind of institution. At this moment both ways of self-fulfillment are very serious and important to her so she will try to develop them on an equal level and let life decide which will be the best for her.

### **Aneignung der Zweisprachigkeit im jungen Alter am eigenen Beispiel**

*Friday, 10:00*

Mein Vortrag befasst sich mit der natürlichen Aneignung von Sprachen durch Kinder, konkret mit der Zweisprachigkeit im jungen Alter, also von der Geburt bis zum Anfang des Erwachsenenalters. Dieses Thema möchte ich in zwei Teilen besprechen. Erstens will ich meine persönlichen Erfahrungen als bilinguale Person darstellen. Dazu werde ich einen Querschnitt durch die Jahre machen, in denen die Aneignung des Polnischen und des Deutschen im wechselnden Rhythmus stattfand. Zweitens möchte ich wissenschaftliche Unterlagen zu diesem Thema liefern wie den Spracherwerb und die Erwerbssequenz bei Kindern. Außerdem will ich authentische Beispiele meiner sprachlichen Entwicklung herbeirufen und auf Interferenzen der jeweiligen Sprachen eingehen. Als Zusammenfassung möchte ich meine Praxis mit der Theorie der Angewandten Linguistik vergleichen und versuchen verschiedene bewusste und unbewusste Hirnprozesse einer zweisprachigen Person klar darzustellen.

### **Marion Viau**



Marion Viau is French and Canadian and started doing Improv as a hobby in Montreal four years ago for random reasons. When she moved to Vietnam in 2015, she found herself becoming a trainer and developed workshops for groups of participants who were performing in their second language (including herself). Currently working as the director of the French Institute in Niš (Serbia), she contributes to the blooming international community in town, by managing a language school and organizing cultural events.

### **Improv as a tool to boost confidence in language learning**

*Friday, 11:00*

Come join a fun and 100% interactive workshop of Improv games! Improv – or improvisation theatre – is a powerful tool to practice a foreign language and unlock even the shyest participants. As you play and laugh, you gain confidence and forget that you are practicing a foreign language. Starting with exercises focusing on gestures and emotions, and depending on the strength and size of the group, participants will be able at the end of the workshop to perform complete short scenes (characters, dialogues, intrigues, etc.).

The stories acted are created at the exact same time as performed. No script, no prac-

tice, only pure imagination. For this workshop, no acting skills are required, but a good amount of craziness is necessary to be able to cope with the upcoming heavy fun!

## Marta Melnyk



Marta is ambitious and talented in linguistics speaking six different languages. She comes from Ukraine, sings with passion, and is a squash enthusiast. She fulfills her ambitions at an international company supporting her clients and colleagues with her experienced skills solving problems. Marta is an experienced Toastmaster, so people say that her workshops and speeches are always exciting.

## Ukrainian for Beginners

*Friday, 9:00*

If you read this text, it means only the following: you are on the Polyglot Gathering in Bratislava and you have at least a little interest in “Ukrainian for beginners”. The Ukrainian-speaking world seems to be so small, but it turns out that it is an official language in two countries and a recognised minority language in nine other countries. Let me lead you to this small and cosy world of one of the most melodic languages. Would you like to speak in a way that makes other people think you are singing? Come to “Ukrainian for Beginners”! Would you like to sound romantic even if you’re only saying simple things? Come to “Ukrainian for Beginners”! Would you like to feel strength in every word you say? Come to “Ukrainian for Beginners”! You will learn how to speak with feeling and feel with speaking. I love this language, please let me “infect” you with this love. It is worth it! Experience and background do not matter, everyone will find something during this workshop.

## Matthieu Desplantes



Matthieu is from France but now lives in Slovakia. He discovered Esperanto by chance ten years ago and began learning it without imagining that it would bring him to numerous countries and eventually lead him to the world of language enthusiasts. Today, Esperanto is a second language to him and he speaks it daily. His life also unexpectedly led him to learn two Slavic languages, Slovak and Russian. He also has an elementary knowledge of Polish.

## The Slavic languages

*Thursday, 9:00*

The Slavic languages include a dozen languages spoken by more than 300 million people, ranging from Eastern Germany to the Pacific ocean. Apart from Russian, they are often neglected by language learners and have a reputation of being difficult to learn. Having the Polyglot Gathering in a Slavic-speaking country is a good opportunity to discover this fascinating language family, from the widespread Russian language, through small yet diverse Slovene, to famously hard to pronounce Polish. I will present the shared features that make the Slavic languages similar as well as the differences that make each language unique. After my talk, you will know that they don't all sound like Russian and, hopefully, you will want to learn a Slavic language.

## L'espéranto : une langue vivante

*Sunday, 11:00*

La plupart des gens qui ont entendu le mot « espéranto » n'ont qu'une vague idée de ce dont il s'agit – c'était censé être un genre de langue universelle, non ? Vous n'aviez peut-être même jamais entendu ce mot avant de venir au Gathering. Comme l'espéranto est une langue auxiliaire internationale, on ne distingue pas toujours bien ce que l'espéranto est de ce que l'espéranto sera/devrait être/aurait pu être. Dans cette présentation, vous découvrirez ce que l'espéranto *est* et vous connaîtrez la réponse à des questions telles que : est-ce qu'il y a vraiment des gens qui parlent l'espéranto ? Qui sont-ils ? Dans quel pays parle-t-on l'espéranto ? D'où est-ce qu'il vient ? Est-ce qu'il a une culture ? Est-ce qu'il est lié à une idéologie ? Est-ce que l'espéranto est aussi facile que le disent les espérantistes ? À quoi ça ressemble ? Qu'est-ce que je peux faire avec l'espéranto ? Est-ce qu'il évolue ? Est-ce qu'une langue inventée peut être considérée comme une vraie langue ?

## Michael Campbell



The founder of Glossika, Michael Campbell, is a world-renowned polyglot, who has acquired many major and minority languages. Glossika was developed and tested over 10 years to help students break through to fluency. Campbell now brings his passion for languages and his fluency solutions to the world through Glossika's new line of products.

## **Chinese Languages: Comparison and Acquisition Tactics (through Skype)**

*Thursday, 10:00*

There has been much debate over the grey area between language and dialect. It is usually national borders that serve the final definition. Chinese is a complex situation because there isn't a word for dialect, causing misunderstanding among Westerners. We're here to dispel myths: terminology in Chinese is presented and explained, and parallels drawn with European languages.

This talk delivers a top-down strategy for polyglots approaching multiple Chinese languages, specifically at how Sinitic fits into the linguistic jigsaw of language families in Asia, what the various languages and dialects are and their significance.

First, we'll cover an overview of the sound system, the challenging sounds and a single universal tone system. We'll demonstrate how to extrapolate the sounds and tones from one language to another. Second, we'll cover how to tackle Chinese vocabulary and how to identify false friends. Finally, the specific Chinese syntactic structures that appear in the various languages are presented to help you pick up the languages faster.

## **Michael Mischkot**



Michael Mischkot is an Austrian polyglot with an engineering background. In 2016, he published his first book on efficient and effective language learning *Smile Talk Cheesecake*.

## **The Power of State – The Most Underrated Element in Modern Language Learning**

*Saturday, 17:00*

State – our way of being in the moment – and the ability to select a useful state are key factors for excellent human performance. This fact is well known in sports, performing arts, medicine, and is equally true in the field of language learning. Talking in a new language represents a challenging situation for a number of reasons, especially for beginners but also for language learners at a more experienced level. In addition to that, approaching mistakes as a positive learning experience is essential to use them as a tool for an efficient and effective language learning process. Therefore, emotional flexibility is a key tool to perform successfully in the unknown. State choice is often based on unconscious processes. However, various techniques can enable a conscious choice among useful states for a given situa-

tion. This presentation focuses on how to access a high-performance state and how to use it when interacting with others as well as during self-study in the short as well as long run.

### **Mikołaj Bać**



Mikołaj Bać is a student from Cracow. He is studying French philology at the Jagiellonian University, and describes himself as an open-minded person who has a great love for traveling, debating, playing music and as you can possibly imagine – learning languages. With his passion to rock and roll, he hopes to become a rockstar someday. He also feels passionately about improving the level of public debate in Poland.

### **Consciously becoming aware of words – Oxford Debates**

*Friday, 9:00*

Since the idea of Oxford debates has become popularized, it has started to be used as a perfect way of teaching people how to debate, after all that is exactly what it is about. However I would like to expand not only the pros of the debater's self-conscious, but also the extension of their language skills. Being able to express your emotions properly gives you the ability to argue efficiently. This talk will give you the opportunity to debate in other languages, allowing you to expand your linguistic knowledge and develop a word bank specific to your needs. I would like to give you some basic knowledge of rhetorical skills and advice about public appearances. Also, as far as I'm concerned, few people have ever heard of Oxford Debating, so this speech is also for you. I would like to briefly describe how debating can affect your whole life, change your way of thinking and help to popularize this brilliant idea. Let's go and debate then!

### **Miriam Pavlovičová, Juraj Cigáň**



Miriam Pavlovičová graduated from the Faculty of Arts of the Comenius University in Bratislava (Slovak language and French language) and from the College of International and Public relations in Prague (international relations and diplomacy). She is currently working as a Lecturer of Slovak language as a foreign language in the Institute for Language and Preparatory Studies

for foreigners and compatriots in the Centre for Continuing Education of the Comenius University. She is focused on linguo-didactic problems of teaching Slovak language as a foreign language. She also works as a Lecturer of French language.



Juraj Cigáň graduated from the Faculty of Arts of the Comenius University in Bratislava (Slovak language and history) where he later gained his PhD degree. He is currently working as a Lecturer of Slovak language in the Institute for Language and Preparatory Studies for foreigners and compatriots in the Centre for Continuing Education of the Comenius University. His focus is on endangered languages and Slovak diaspora. As a teacher of Slovak language he spent several years within the Slovak minority in Bihor County in Romania. He is also cooperating on successful Slovak artistic-and-educational project SuperClass.

## **Slovak language lesson**

*Thursday, 15:00; Friday, 10:00*

Learning by playing games (memory cards) is the most appropriate way to reach students' attention and engage them right from the start of learning a new language. By reading, assigning, and rewriting whole sentences of the memory cards to the individual verbs on the worksheets, the students themselves participate in the lesson and are not just passive recipients of the teacher's interpretation.

## **Miriam Sirotňáková**



She is 23 year old student at the Faculty of Mathematics, Physics and Informatics, Comenius University. She is from Slovakia. She is doing a graduation thesis on the topic of using Internet resources to optimally study languages independently.

## **Free mobile apps for learning languages**

*Saturday, 15:00*

Do you want to learn something new about opportunities in the world of mobile apps? Do you know some that are useful in learning languages? Attend my workshop and share them with other participants. I am a student at the Faculty of mathematics, physics and informatics, Comenius University. I'm doing research as part of my thesis

on the topic Internet resources for an optimal self-study of languages. Specifically, I would like to gather some information about free mobile apps that are useful in learning languages. I will be very grateful if you share your experiences with me.

## Nat Dinham



Nat became obsessed with languages at an early age and went on to study languages at university. She has been working with translators and native speakers of over 140 different languages over the last few years to put together learning resources, and has been intrigued by the different ways in which languages approach certain concepts, such as time, colours and names of family members. Her linguistic education gave her the necessary ability to understand that languages do operate in different ways, but it has been a detailed and absorbing experience to spend so much time working so closely with such a huge range of languages from across the globe.

## The challenges of translating over 140 different languages

*Thursday, 12:00*

Have you ever thought that the way your language is structured can affect the way you consider the world? Would telling the time Swahili-style affect when you see the day as starting, and would having to specify the age and gender of your sibling, instead of using a generic term, make you think of them in a different way? Having worked with over 140 different languages, I've come across a huge variety of fascinating differences in how languages deal with big concepts, like time, counting and colours, as well as little tiny quirks which make learning a new language such a rewarding joy. I'm delighted to be able to share these with other linguists, and spread my enjoyment of the individuality of languages.

## Nicolas Viau



Curieux de tout, éclectique, Nicolas Viau est depuis longtemps un mordu des langues. Né en France, ayant passé plus de la moitié de sa vie au Québec, il vit aujourd'hui à Montréal. Il s'intéresse aux questions linguistiques et internationales, ce qui l'a poussé il y a plusieurs années à se lancer dans l'apprentissage de l'espéranto. Il est maintenant vice-président de la Société québécoise d'es-

péranto. Il parle le français l'anglais, l'espéranto et l'espagnol. Il se débrouille en portugais et en allemand et a des notions de plusieurs autres langues. Formé en physique et en environnement, il travaille aujourd'hui en énergie renouvelable. Membre de l'équipe organisatrice du LangFest de Montréal, il partage aussi à l'occasion ses réflexions, linguistiques ou non, sur son blogue [ideesmultiples.ca](http://ideesmultiples.ca). Il aime aussi les promenades urbaines et la discussion et ce, peu importe la langue !

## **Situation linguistique du Québec et du Canada**

*Thursday, 12:00*

Le Québec, province canadienne francophone dans une Amérique du Nord majoritairement anglophone, est l'une des principales richesses linguistiques du continent. Cette situation particulière a mené le Québec à trouver des réponses particulières pour assurer la vitalité de sa langue et de sa culture. Cette présentation survolera l'histoire et la situation linguistiques actuelles du Québec et du Canada, et exposera les principaux éléments des politiques linguistiques en place. Les aspects démographiques, sociaux et éducatifs seront entre autres évoqués.

## **Niels J. L. Iversen**



Niels J. L. Iversen has a cand.mag. degree in French and Literature from 1982, but dropped language studies for 25 years due to dubious job prospects at the university level. He resumed his linguistic activities in 2006 as a dedicated amateur with an immense log thread at HTLAL, but has since then moved his activities to Language-Learners.org. His main focus is now on successively learning all the European languages, primarily as written languages, but at a level where they can be resuscitated for use during travels.

## **Trees and waves and the Germanic mess**

*Sunday, 11:00*

At the macro level the Germanic languages are nicely subdivided into separate languages and groups of languages. However, the more you look at the details, the more confused the picture becomes – with for instance an isolated English dangling somewhere in outer space, Frisian, Dutch, Low German and Danish freely sharing features across boundaries and Norwegian effectively having joined the continental Nordic languages instead of loyally staying with Icelandic and Faroese.

And was Jutish ever a Danish dialect?

### **Peter Baláž**



Peter is an Esperantist, publisher and editor; he was selected as the 2012 Esperantist of the Year. Baláž lives in his hometown of Partizánske and speaks, to various degrees, Slovak, Czech, German, Polish, Russian and English, as well as Esperanto. Peter is especially active in the international Esperanto movement and educational projects, and in 2005 he became the coordinator of E@I. He is also known as an organiser of international events (mainly, but not only, Esperanto-meetings). He is a former board member of Wikimedia Slovakia and, since September 2012, a member of its Revision Committee. He owns the Slovakia-based publishing firm Espero, founded in 2003, which publishes mainly Esperanto works.

### **European identity – does it need a common language?**

*Thursday, 17:00*

*L'Italia è fatta. Restano da fare gli italiani.* (We have made Italy. Now we must make Italians), Massimo d'Azeglio, 1866.

We have made Europe, now we must make Europeans. Language is (only) a part of one's identity expression, but a very important one. What creates our feeling of being Slovak, British, Russian, etc.? Yes, a big part of our nationality and identity is deeply linked to our mother tongue(s) and with the language(s) of the country we live in. But in this context – how to express our European identity? Can we create Europeans without a common language? Is it possible to create the feeling of "europeanism" in EU citizens? If so, how? Do we need a brand new language for that? Is the domination of the English language the best solution for the EU in the future? Now, in the times of Brexit, should we maybe speak more (more often, more publicly, more loudly) about language policy in Europe and about the future usage of languages in it? And could communication among Europeans be more easygoing and efficient than it is now? Let's talk about this issues and discuss the topic together.

## Philippe Gagneur, Daniel Krasa



Philippe Gagneur, publisher, is French and grew up in Paris. He came to Germany in 1982 and started working for Assimil in 1991. He lives in Cologne, Germany, where he designs the German adaptations of the Assimil courses as well as German language courses for foreigners, together with a small team of polyglots. When he went to school it was very hard for him to learn German and later English, so he experienced the difficulties of language learning at first hand – one reason why he considers it very important to create language courses for everybody, not only for young people and talented learners.

See Daniel's description on page 30.

## Assimil – a century dedicated to language learning

*Friday, 11:00*

Almost every polyglot has one or more Assimil courses in his bookshelf. But what most of them do not know is what motivated the young Alphonse Chérel to create this unique autodidactic method for language learning nearly 100 years ago, how he developed the concept, and why he chose the name Assimil? Just like with every modern start-up company he was a pioneer at that time, offering the possibility of bilingual language learning by means of radio programmes as well as discs with 78 rpm.

Two representatives of the company, the publisher Philippe Gagneur and the author Daniel Krasa will give you an introduction into how the Assimil learning method works and what its characteristics are, highlighting the evolution and the latest developments of this never-ending success story made in Europe. Both are polyglots themselves, so you can ask your questions in many languages.

## Radoslav Štefančík



Radoslav Štefančík is a Slovak political scientist and a Germanist. He is engaged in the research of political parties, international migration and, in recent years, also of political language. He currently holds the post of Dean of the Faculty of Applied Languages, the University of Economics in Bratislava.

### **The power of language in politics (in German)**

*Thursday, 11:00*

Language is a basic tool for success in politics. It serves to mobilize voters before the election, to build their own image over the entire electoral period, to present messages, to convict, or to spell out political opponents. Politicians must consider their communication strategies, and they must decide what words to choose in different situations. The presentation of the party chairperson before secondary school students will be presented in a different way than the speech given to pensioners or to their own members at the party meeting. The character of the chosen communication strategy is not only related to the current policy position. The political language also changes depending on the current time and topics that society must address. Another language is used by politicians, others during wartime. Other ways of communicating will be preferred by politicians prior to presenting important topics; other means of expression will dominate during communication on marginal themes. Politicians, however, have only one important goal despite the different situations in which they are located. They have to persuade people and gain their trust. The contribution will be about these different types of political language.

### **Ralph Hurley O'Dwyer**



Ralph is a final year medical student from Ireland and a passionate language lover and teacher. He has worked part-time teaching piano and foreign languages for the last six years. In recent years, he has concentrated on learning Lebanese Arabic, a skill which he has used to volunteer with Syrian refugees in Ireland and to work with LebMASH, an organisation improving LGBT+ rights in Lebanon. In 2011, Ralph won the "European Language Label" prize for the best foreign language learner in Ireland. He speaks English, Irish, French, German, Spanish, Lebanese Arabic, Catalan and Italian at varying degrees of fluency.

### **Une introduction à l'arabe libanais ! (An introduction to Lebanese Arabic)**

*Friday, 17:00*

Vous êtes en recherche d'une nouvelle langue à apprendre ? Je vous convaincrain pourquoi l'arabe libanais devrait figurer sur votre liste et comment cette langue pourrait changer votre vie et celle d'autrui, aujourd'hui où des millions de réfugiés syriens fuient leur pays. Je vous expliquerai l'histoire de cette variété fascinante de

l'arabe levantin et comment d'autres langues telles que le français, l'anglais et le turc l'ont influencée au fil de l'histoire. Pendant cette discussion, vous apprendrez quelques bases de la grammaire levantine qui nous permettront à étudier ensemble une petite conversation en libanais pendant le cours. En plus, je partagerai avec vous mes propres expériences et mes astuces pour apprendre cette langue pour laquelle très peu de ressources existent. Beyrouth est connue comme la capitale mondiale de l'alternance codique, les citoyens beyrouthins étant renommés pour leur capacité à jongler avec l'arabe, le français et l'anglais sans peine et toujours avec élégance. Venez et découvrez quelques secrets libanais pour devenir polyglotte !

## **An Introduction to Irish**

*Saturday, 10:00*

On the windswept westernmost shores of Europe lies the emerald isle of Ireland. Ireland is home to the Irish language, an ancient Celtic language which has the oldest vernacular literature of any language in Western Europe. In this workshop, you will gain an introduction to this mysterious but beautiful language. You will learn about its Slavic-like consonant system and how to decipher Irish orthography in order to pronounce names like Rádhuibh and Aoife with a true Connemara accent! You will be introduced to initial consonant mutations, and the curious grammatical similarities that exist between Irish and Arabic. You will learn about the history of Irish : how it has been influenced by languages such as Old Norse and French and how it gives the English spoken in Ireland a unique flavour. You will have fun trying to imitate accents from different parts of Ireland! Together we will learn how to talk about ourselves in Irish and will have fun decoding a short text. Lastly, you will hear first-hand experience of the evolving linguistic situation in Ireland and of how you can begin your own Irish-language journey. P.S. This workshop will give you the tools to instantly endear yourself to any Irish person!

## **Richard DeLong**



Richard DeLong is a numbers geek and systematically quantifies many aspects of his life, including the acquisition and maintenance of foreign languages. Born in the U.S., he has permanently relocated to the post-Soviet region, works as an English-Russian conference interpreter, and runs the Tbilisi Language Exchange Club, where he regularly practices his other 7 languages. Rich-

ard has over 20 years of experience in self-directed language learning and recently published a book titled *Frictionless Foreign Language Mastery*, where he describes how to achieve any level of proficiency as efficiently as possible.

### **The Quantified Polyglot: How Scarcity and Other Numerical Constraints Affect Language Learning (in Russian)**

*Saturday, 16:00*

Your language tutor is probably overloading you. You likely experience a chronic deficit of speaking practice. There aren't enough native speakers to go around. The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages is missing the lowest and highest levels. Achieving and maintaining fluency in language X requires major lifestyle changes. Adding language Z to your arsenal may require giving up language Y. The world is anglicizing at a dizzying pace, making it progressively more difficult to learn other languages. These are a few of the hard realizations that come from a numbers-based analysis of the different facets of language learning. But the dark cloud has a silver lining. Quantification also give us clues as to how to maximize our limited resources of time, willpower, brainpower, and access to native speakers. Get ready for plenty of numbers, graphs, and speculation from a seasoned polyglot who decided to "switch" native languages at the age of 19 and has been fighting uphill battles ever since.

### **Richard Simcott**



I am a Brit living in Skopje, Macedonia. I work as Languages Director for The Social Element and I also organise the Polyglot Conference each year. I love talking in and about lots of lovely languages.

### **Life In Multiple Languages**

*Sunday, 12:00*

A look into my day-to-day life as a polyglot, living a multilingual life. I will explore how languages are integrated into my life and how people react to me using them. I'll include tips on living a multilingual life too for anyone interested in keeping up more than one language.

## Rick Dearman



Rick Dearman is a language learner, author, programmer, IT Director and administrator of the language-learners.org website and forum.

### Using TV, Anki, and subtitles to learn a language

*Thursday, 16:00*

Can you learn a language by watching a TV series? Yes you can. The linguist Stephen Krashen once claimed that, "We acquire language when we understand messages." But sadly, we can't get this data by watching TV we don't understand, so we need to have comprehensible input. This is where subtitled DVDs can help! By breaking up a DVD into three pieces; picture of the scene, native text, target language audio and target language text, we can create four elements of learning. The four elements are:

1. Earworms – the ability of the human mind to memorise audio songs even if you don't understand the language. Like when you sign along with Gangnam Style but don't speak Korean.
2. Understandable input – translating the target language audio and text with the native language sub-title.
3. The testing effect – long-term memory is increased when some of the learning period is devoted to retrieving the to-be-remembered information
4. Spacing effect – spaced repetition is when you retrieve the memory just before it is forgotten.

This workshop shows the tools and software you need to generate thousands of Anki cards for language acquisition.

## Santiago Diossa Muñoz



Santiago Diossa was born in Colombia but grew up in Madrid, he's passionate about the social aspect of language (Sociolinguistics and Pragmatics). He's been working as an English teacher in Madrid for 6 years and has a C2 level of English and the CELTA (Certification in English Language Teaching to Adults), he also speaks Spanish, German, French, Italian, Portuguese, Modern Greek and some Chinese. He's currently studying a master's degree in Spanish teaching. He's lived in many different places such as Colombia, Spain, Norway,

Italy, Germany and France which has enabled him to have a multicultural view of the world and wonder about how language is used in society.

### **Introducción a la pragmática (Introduction to pragmatics)**

*Saturday, 16:00*

¿Cómo influyen las relaciones sociales en la forma en la que utilizamos el lenguaje? ¿Cómo influye una cultura en la interpretación de una lengua? A veces es muy fácil «meter la pata» cuando hablamos un idioma extranjero, los malentendidos son muy comunes aunque se conozca a la perfección la gramática de la lengua ¿Cómo se producen estos malentendidos? Ésta es una introducción a la pragmática, una ciencia que estudia los factores extralingüísticos y sociales en la interpretación del significado, la lengua es algo vivo que se usa en sociedad y no puede ser reducida a reglas gramaticales. Lo que se considera apropiado en una u otra lengua difiere mucho entre culturas y conocer algunos principios de la pragmática nos puede ayudar a entender estas diferencias y a ser más tolerantes para poder entender la comunicación intercultural.

### **How is politeness expressed in different languages?**

*Sunday, 10:00*

Politeness is a mechanism we use in our everyday life to avoid conflict with others and to work as a society, but is politeness something universal? Is it possible to be impolite in a language one doesn't really master? What is understood as politeness in different languages? Politeness, in linguistics, is the way a language shows the social distance between the speakers and the relationship of their role in a society, but how do different cultures understand this? Why is it so easy to upset people from different cultures? Why are there some cultures that are usually perceived as "more polite"? We will talk about this and give some examples of the mechanisms used.

### **Seán Ó Riain**



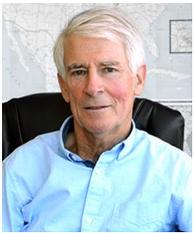
Seán Ó Riain is deputy ambassador of Ireland to Austria and the International Organisations in Vienna. He has worked in the Irish diplomatic service in six countries. A linguist and fluent speaker of eight languages, his Ph.D thesis from Trinity College Dublin compared Irish language policy in Ireland with French language policy in Québec. He is President of the European Esperanto Union.

## Brexit and languages in Europe

*Thursday, 12:00*

Following the Brexit referendum in June 2016 MEP and former EU Commissioner Danuta Hubner suggested that English may no longer be an official EU language when the UK leaves the EU. On 4 May 2017 EU Commissioner President Juncker opted to make a speech in Florence in French as he said "...slowly but surely English is losing importance in Europe". What will be the linguistic consequences, both short-term and longer term, of the UK decision to leave the EU?

## Steve Kaufmann



Steve Kaufmann is a graduate of L'Institut d'Études Politiques in Paris, France (1966), and a former Canadian Diplomat and forest industry executive. He is co-founder (with his son Mark), of LingQ.com, an online language learning system and community. Steve speaks 15 languages, has written a book called *The Way of the Linguist, A Language Learning Odyssey*, and has a YouTube channel under the name of lingosteve.

## How many words do we need to know?

*Friday, 16:00*

Traditional language instruction places importance on producing the language correctly, even in the early stages of learning the language. This dictates an emphasis on grammar, on guided conversation, working in pairs, and artificial scenarios like going through customs, buying a train ticket, etc. Is this necessary? Can working on comprehension, both written and oral, gives us a better base for the long term development of competence in a new language?

Comprehension implies knowing words. The more authentic and interesting the learning content, the more words we need. Some knowledge of grammar is necessary for comprehension, but the degree of grammar accuracy needed for comprehension is much lower than for speaking. It is the gaps in our vocabulary, not in our grammar knowledge, that constitute the greatest obstacle to comprehension. The ultimate goal is accurate usage of the language. This means correct word usage and a comfortable control of grammar rules. Confronting the norms of grammar without sufficient exposure to the language can be frustrating. On the other hand, striving to master grammar and usage after considerable passive exposure to the

language has many advantages.

### **How to use LingQ**

*Sunday, 12:00*

LingQ was launched in late 2007 by Steve Kaufmann and his son Mark to develop better tools for language learners. The LingQ system is based on Steve's experiences learning languages. Until the age of 17 Steve only spoke English. After 10 years of French lessons in school, Steve still couldn't speak it. It was at the point that Steve decided to find a way to learn languages that works. The system that Steve developed forms the basis of the LingQ system enabling thousands of learners from all over the world to enjoy language learning and successfully reach their goals. LingQ is a fun, simple way to learn languages from authentic, interesting content. Learning the language from the language itself, just as most children learn their own language.

### **Szabolcs Szilva**



Szabolcs Szilva is Hungarian but also currently living in Warsaw, Poland. He spends a lot of his time with languages: he teaches, he learns, he translates. He speaks Hungarian, Esperanto, Polish, English and Finnish. His adventure started in 2007 by learning Esperanto. In his own language school, he teaches Esperanto, Hungarian and Polish, mainly for Hungarian people. He finished his studies in economics, interlinguistics and Finno-Ugric studies.

He is a PHD student of the University of Warsaw.

### **Hungarian and Finnish: two "unique" languages, with huge distance and with common history**

*Sunday, 12:00*

I would like to present two languages of the Uralic language family in Europe, Hungarian and Finnish, destroying the main stereotypes usually people have about them. They say they were unique languages in Europe and that the countries were so far from each other. How is it possible they are related? I would like to show that they are not so unique as people think, and that they weren't always so far from each other as they are now. Also I would like to show why Finnish is not a Scandinavian language like people usually think. I'd like to show its similarities with

Hungarian and their differences comparing then also with other Indo-European languages. In my talk I will present some historical facts, phonetics and grammar.

## Thomas Reese, Yinghua Yang



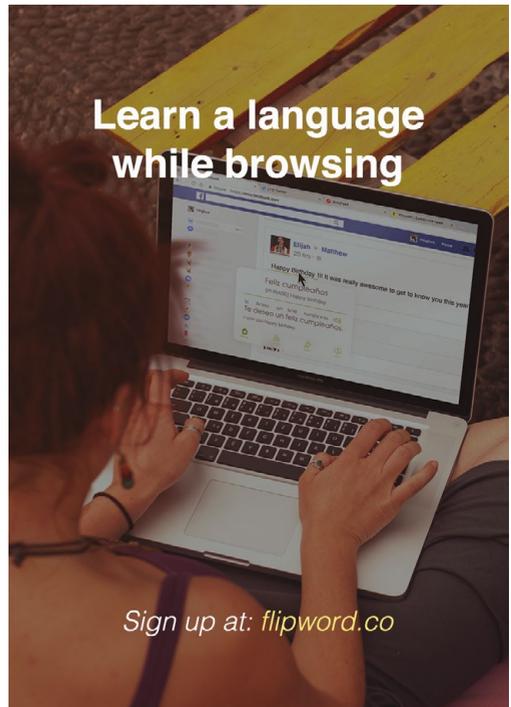
Thomas Reese: co-founder of FlipWord, computer scientist, multilingual entrepreneur, software engineer at Facebook and Amazon, UIUC alumni, foreign local.

Yinghua Yang: co-founder of FlipWord, linguist and UI/UX designer, multilingual entrepreneur, lecturer at New Oriental, UX researcher at John Deere, UIUC alumni, advanced doodler.

## FlipWord (start-up presentation)

*Saturday, 17:00*

FlipWord is a Chrome Extension (and soon mobile app) that intelligently and automatically replaces a few words with the language you want to learn on every English webpage, as you casually browse the web. Simply hover over to access a bite-sized lesson and gamified communication practice. Your knowledge will grow exponentially, quantified through progress charts and various tiny quizzes. No time must be set aside to learn. Instead, you constantly learn as you browse your favorite content. FlipWord makes sure this personal but effective habit will accompany you through life.



**Tim Keeley**

Tim Keeley is a professor of cross-cultural management at Kyushu Sangyo University in Japan. He has carried out extensive research into the social, psychological, and attitudinal factors that facilitate both functioning in foreign cultures and foreign languages. He has spent around 40 years outside his native land (USA) in South America, Western and Eastern Europe, Southeast Asia, and East Asia. Tim's language experience includes Romance languages,

Germanic languages, Slavic languages, and 10 Asian languages as well as others such as Greek. He is presently concentrating on Tibetan, Sherpa, Tamang and others that he can use while trekking the Himalayas.

**The Making of a Hyperglot**

*Saturday, 12:00*

The journeys that lead to becoming a polyglot or hyperglot are diverse but they all share some common characteristics. Learning and functioning at high levels in new languages and cultures is a process that involves taking on new linguistic and cultural identities. It is a transformative process that is repeated over and over again in the case of successful polyglots. The presentation is designed to highlight the insights and lessons learned over the past 42 years while living, studying, working and travelling around the globe.

This is not a presentation proclaiming the superiority of any given method. There is no one perfect way; it must be customized to fit your own unique set of psychological and cognitive characteristics. The more you transform yourself from being a creature of habit within the limits of the cultures and languages you know, the more you can become free to explore new perspectives and modes of expression. The more languages you know, the more cognate languages appear as low-hanging fruit ready to be picked and consumed. The more you exercise your brain through additional language acquisition the stronger it gets in relation to the acquisition process through actual structural changes in the brain itself.

**Tim Morley**

Tim Morley now lives in Cambridge (UK), and has been teaching foreign languages (English, French and Esperanto) for the last 15 years. His 2012 TEDx talk “Learn Esperanto First” is still inspiring people to start learning the language. He’ll be teaching a B2 class at the Somera Esperanto-Studado in Slovakia in July 2017.

**“Don’t say ‘quite!’” and “The Joy of Phrasal Verbs”**

*Saturday, 15:00*

Two quickfire interactive talks with Q&A to follow, about using English with an international audience. Don’t say “quite” – because your audience will misunderstand you, guaranteed. Come and test your own understanding. And phrasal verbs – should you use them, or avoid them like the plague?

**“Springboard to Languages” – Introducing foreign languages via Esperanto**

*Thursday, 10:00*

There’s a long-held belief that learning Esperanto as a first foreign language facilitates subsequent language learning, but is it actually true? Following on from his 2012 TEDx talk on the subject, Tim Morley reflects on the outcomes of the Springboard to Languages programme, which attempted to prove the hypothesis by teaching Esperanto in a number of primary schools in the UK.

**Tim Owen**

Tim Owen is the Director of the Esperanto-Asocio de Britio and something of a pretend polyglot, since nearly all of his languages are related and Esperanto is so easy that getting fluent in it didn’t require much effort. Is he exaggerating with that last claim? Come to his talk and see for yourself!

**Had I known Esperanto would be this easy...**

*Saturday, 10:00*

Description: Discover for yourself why you’ll never need a book 501 verbs in Esperanto. We’ll start from one-word sentences, work through all tenses for all verbs, and finish with you working out for yourselves how to say something as complicated as “Had I known Esperanto would be this easy, I’d have learned it already!”

And we'll do all of that in 45 minutes. Not only will it be you telling me how to say that sentence in Esperanto... I bet you'll be thinking it too.

## Timothy McKeon



Timothy McKeon is a linguist and doctor of Traditional Chinese Medicine. He spends his time relishing in and writing about the multitude of languages spoken around the world.

### **Languages, not dialects: the diversity of Chinese**

*Friday, 15:00*

Chinese isn't just Mandarin or Cantonese. And it isn't exactly true that different varieties of Chinese are written the same but just pronounced differently. There are many common misconceptions about the group of languages commonly referred to as "dialects" of Chinese. This talk will explore the vast array of Chinese languages, how they are interrelated, and why such divergent languages are labeled as "dialects". Looking beyond Mandarin and Cantonese, we will also examine some of the lesser studied varieties of Chinese such as Sichuanese, Shanghainese, and Hakka. The talk will be given in English, though some knowledge of Mandarin will be helpful.

## Xavi Alcalde



Xavi Alcalde is a researcher at the centre on social movement studies of the Scuola Normale Superiore, Florence, Italy. His research interests span a wide range of topics, including refugees, disarmament, pacifism, linguistic justice and the history of the Esperanto movement. He contributed to the creation of the Catalan language course from Spanish on Duolingo.

### **How to expand linguistic justice in the cities?**

*Thursday, 16:00*

Similar to the evolution of justice in related areas, such as social justice and environmental justice, in recent decades an interdisciplinary field of research has emerged to tackle linguistic justice. Building from political theory, sociolinguistics, economics, law and interlinguistics, different approaches deal with the ethical dimension of language policy. In other words, how can a language regime be designed in order to be fair? Other research questions in this field include the following: who are the

winners and the losers of a particular policy? Which could be the role of an international auxiliary language in a fairer language regime? As it will be shown, some authors tend to defend language diversity, whereas others argue that a language policy based on a single language is the only one that can guarantee a high level of linguistic justice. In this context, several examples of successful local language policies based on multilingualism will be presented to show that it is possible to have a multilingual language policy which is both fair and efficient.

## Introduction to Catalan language and culture

*Saturday, 12:00*

10 million speakers. The only official language in Andorra. Literary texts since the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Catalan Braille. Signed Catalan. Linguistic classification: Indo-European, Italic, Romance, Western, Gallo-Romance, Occitano-Romance, Catalan. Historical evolution: Evolved from Vulgar Latin around the eastern Pyrenees. Widely used all over the Mediterranean in the Low Middle Ages. Banned in Spain and France in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. Literary revival in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. Pompeu Fabra and the normative reform of contemporary Catalan language. *Kataluna Antologia*. Banned again in Spain (1939-1975). Prestige increases in the last 40 years. Wikipedia, Google Translator, Duolingo... Dialects: Western Catalan, Eastern Catalan, Central Catalan, Balearic, Valencian, Northern Catalan, Alguerese. And yes, we will also see how it sounds in music and movies and will learn useful sentences, such as: *No he fet res de dolent. Ha estat un malentès. On em porteu? Estic arrestat?* (I haven't done anything wrong. It was a misunderstanding. Where are you taking me? Am I under arrest?)

## Zsolt Balai



Zsolt Balai has 25 years of developer experience. He has been developing VR/AR applications since 2012.

## Language Learning with Virtual Reality & Augmented Reality

*Friday, 12:00*

Can you imagine reviewing your daily word list before sleeping using virtual reality? What about having a system that can recognize word cards and select correct sentences? What technologies can help modern language learning? These are our main questions and of course I am open for discussions and new ideas.

# Events

*A variety of fun language-related activities*

## International Culinary Festival

Everybody (Thursday, 19:30)



Get ready to tickle your tastebuds! With different cultures come different foods and drinks, so this is your chance to try some of them – and present your own culture to others! All participants are asked to bring samples of snacks, sweets or drinks from their home country, particularly the kind that are hard to find abroad. Each country will get a table to present stuff on and the entire room will turn into a bazaar of different flavours.

## International Culture Evening



Everybody (Saturday, 20:00)

Do you know how to sing or dance? Show us a traditional or popular song or dance from your culture. Or if you prefer, present something from the culture you're studying instead! A language is more than words and grammar – let's prove it!

## Mentalism show

Florian Heller (Friday, 19:30)



Florian Heller is a mentalist from France. Languages are his passion and enable him to travel and present his breathtaking effects all around Europe. He mixes techniques from diverse fields and uses psychology, misdirection, magic, and showmanship in order to deceive you. Dive into his world and let him take you with him for a journey you will not forget. Add to the impossibility of what will happen the fact that the show will be done in five different languages and you get what a polyglot mentalist is capable of. You will discover him on stage for an hour of amazement, as well as close up at his stand for a more intimate performance before and after the show. He will be happy to perform a few effects for each of you, in the language of your choice!

## Multilingual concert

jOmO (Thursday, 21:00)



Prepare for the most multilingual concert of your life as jOmO will sing to you in 25 languages! How many will you understand? Formerly in *The Guinness Book of Records* for most languages sung at a concert (22!), you'll hear not only his wide variety of languages, but also his wide variety of musical styles. Long known for his lively concerts of folk and rock at Esperanto conventions around the world, now you have a unique chance to hear him during the Gathering.

## Laugh, Live, Love! ¡Reír, Vivir, Amar! Lachen, Leben, Lieben!

Jessie Ann de Angelo (Friday, 20:30)



Jessie Ann's Latin American music has been filling audiences in Austria and Germany with enthusiasm and good mood for 18 years. During the Gathering, her singing in eleven languages and guitar playing will warm your hearts and make you dance!

## Setting a new Slovak record

Everyone (Sunday, 17:00)



We have never had so many multilingual people who speak so many languages in Slovakia at one location. And that's why we want to celebrate it and even have it on paper! We asked an institution which monitors records in Slovakia to join us for the final ceremony on Sunday at 5 pm and witness our attempt at setting a new Slovak record in the number of languages spoken under one roof. All of you are welcome to join in by registering at the information desk during the Gathering. Pick a language from the list of available languages in which you can say a short sentence. The sentence must contain a simple message about languages or language learning that you want to share with the world. Let's see how many languages we can share our polyglot messages in!

## Special program items

*This year's program offers dozens of really interesting talks, but given that this is a "gathering", we also want you to hang out with other participants and get to know more people. Therefore, we've prepared some special program items for you to make this simpler.*

## Lightning talks

*Friday, 17:00; Sunday, 16:00*

 Lightning talks are a chance for anyone to give a quick presentation (up to 5 minutes) about a topic they're interested in. So get ready for a quick succession of interesting tidbits. If you want to give a talk, just add your name to the list of speakers at the InfoPoint. You can show slides (but don't have to) – just make sure you send them as PDF 1 hour before the talk to [georg.jaehnig@polyglotbratislava.com](mailto:georg.jaehnig@polyglotbratislava.com). And remember: 5 minutes max!

## Language policy talks

*Thursday, Language Mentoring Room*



This year's Polyglot Gathering has a special theme of language policy with 6 speakers who will have their talks on Thursday. If you are interested in language-related issues and possible solutions, and you'd like to learn more about language discrimination, language hegemony, linguistic impact of Brexit and possible fair solutions of international language communication, you should definitely not miss these talks. This talk panel will be opened by Ján Figel', a former European Commissioner for Education, Culture, Multilingualism and Youth.

## Gufujo



If you would like to enjoy your evenings in a calmer atmosphere than the social program offers, feel free to come to the Gufujo area (see the venue map). Gufujo is a quiet tea-room where people can talk or play some games, but without getting loud. Please note that alcohol is forbidden in the Gufujo area. Gufujos are very popular in Esperanto events, as they offer a great opportunity to chill out and be social in a calmer way.

## Coffee breaks



All talks start on the full hour (09:00, 10:00, 11:00 etc.) and end at 15 to. In the 15 minute breaks between talks there will be fresh coffee and tea prepared for you in the Esperanto room.

## Game zone



Do you fancy board games? Then the game zone will be your favourite place at the venue! There will be some boardgames ready for you, but you can also bring your own games and teach others how to play them. Stop by in the red area in the entrance hall and join in a game with other Gathering participants any time during the whole Gathering.

## Bookcrossing



If you have any language-related books (or just books in whatever language) that you don't need any more, bring it to the Bookcrossing table, and feel free to take whichever other book you like. It is not based on a give-one-take-one principle, we all give and/or take, so just have a look at what others have already offered.

## No-English Zone



Why are most talks at the Polyglot Gathering delivered in English? Why is this program book in English?? Why do most participants first address you in English??? If you have asked yourself these questions, then you should definitely check out the No-English Zone right outside the university! Anyone is welcome to come there and join the others, but... man darf halt kein Englisch benutzen! Es una zona sin inglés, alors ne parle pas en anglais, nie przedstawiaj się po angielsku, ne demandu en la angla, non cantare in inglese, не говорите анекдотов на английском языке, skrátka, tu je angličtina zakázaná. :) Also, this is our unofficial picnic area of the Polyglot Gathering.

## Language Challenges



*Saturday, 10:00 and 11:00 (Slovak); Sunday, 12:00 (Esperanto)*

How much of a new language can a polyglot learn in 50 days? Let's find out! Some participants have decided to enter our language challenge in which they have been learning Esperanto or Slovak (or even both) in 50 days before the Gathering.

Our juries will help us find out who has achieved the greatest improvement. Check

out the Language Challenges in the program (Saturday morning and Sunday noon) and come to cheer for the brave participants who will show their skills.

## Polyglot Games



We all have one thing in common, don't we? We just *love* learning languages! And we also love to learn in a way which is fun. So why not have fun *with* languages as well? The first day of the Polyglot Gathering is a perfect place for just that. Cesco and Miro will guide you through several fun games, such as:

- A tongue twister contest
- Le mot le plus court (the shortest word)
- Multilingual anagrams
- Multilingual audio recognition
- Samtempmultlingvaŭskultadludo (Simultaneous multilingual listening game)
- Find a person who...
- Aligatorejo

And much more! Are you wondering what these games entail? Come to the registration on Wednesday between 1 pm and 6 pm and you'll find out! The games will continue in the evening after the welcome ceremony.

## Polyglot Picnic



*Monday, 10:00*

Are you leaving Bratislava on Monday or later? Then you should join us for our common picnic on Monday, starting at 10 am. The location will be specified in the closing ceremony. Everybody brings their own food, drinks, and something to sit on, and we can enjoy our last hours together. You can bring your luggage and leave for your

planes, trains or automobiles directly from the picnic area.

# Trips

*This year, the Polyglot Gathering is not happening just in the Gathering premises but also in all of Bratislava and even Slovakia! We have prepared interesting trips for you which are happening either during the Gathering or right after. The trips are only for those who signed up for them in their registration. If you have, see the meeting points and times below.*

## Devín Castle



*Thursday and Friday, 14:00 – 18:00*

Devín Castle is situated at the periphery of Bratislava, at the meeting of two rivers, the Danube and the Morava, which form the boundary between Slovakia and Austria. Thanks to its strategic location it was always occupied by rulers and their troops and represented an important fortress for the Celts, Romans, and Slavs. Below the castle, we will see the

place where The Iron Curtain used to be. It is also the place where people tried to escape the regime, often unsuccessfully, which commemorates the monument situated at the bank of the river. At the end of the tour you will have the opportunity to taste local red currant wine.

Meeting point: right in front of the main university entrance, 1:50 pm. Please make sure you are not late.

## Wine in Bratislava



*Saturday, 14:00 – 19:00*

Wine has been the main export product of Bratislava for centuries. The Old Town and the Castle were surrounded by vineyards. Thanks to that we have preserved a rich tradition of winemaking and also a lot of hidden wine cellars. On this tour you will learn not only about the history of Bratislava but also about local tradition of winemaking, its selling and

storing. After discovering historical cellars we will end our tour with wine-tasting of high-quality Slovak wines.

Meeting point: in front of the main university entrance, 2:00 pm. Please make sure you are not late.

## Bojnice and Trenčín

*Monday, 8:30 – 18:30*



In the morning, you will have a chance to see one of the most romantic castles, a Slovak gem called Bojnice castle, whose architecture is inspired by the most beautiful Gothic castles. Trenčín is a city known for its castle full of legends and the monument plaque of Roman soldiers, probably the northernmost trace of the Romans in Europe. You can look forward to the castle, the dominant feature of the city. This Gothic fortress used to guard trade roads connecting Mediterranean area with northern Europe. After the castle tour, you will have another opportunity to see the city from above – from the ancient city gate.

Meeting point: in front of the main university entrance, 8:30 am. Please make sure you are not late.



Is this the end of the Polyglot Gathering? It may be, but don't worry, language lovers meet in other cool places too! This year, you can meet many of the friends you've made in Bratislava, if you come to Montréal, Canada on August 23-25 for LangFest (check out <http://langfest.org>) or if you come to Reykjavík, Iceland, on October 27-29, to attend the Polyglot Conference ([www.polyglotconference.com](http://www.polyglotconference.com)). Don't forget to share the polyglot love for languages, and hopefully, see you next year at another Polyglot Gathering!



December 2016



January 2017



February 2017



March 2017



April 2017



One week before the Gathering...

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