



INSTITUTE OF
LANGUAGES
CULTURES AND
SOCIETIES

SCHOOL OF
ADVANCED STUDY
UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

Programme for

**The 8th Middlesex Roundtable on
Signs, Language and Communication:**

The Concept of Language in the 21st Century

Middlesex University London
Language and Communication Research Group

22nd – 24th April, 2026

Pre-Roundtable Workshop:
Posthumanist Linguistics: Challenges and Pitfalls

- **Date:** 22nd April, 2026 (Wed)
- **Venue:** Room 261, Senate House, School of Advanced Study, University of London

- **Programme:**

- 13:00-13:15 **Welcome and Introduction**
By Adrian Pablé (Ticino)
- 13:15-13:45 **A Critical Integrationist Perspective on Posthumanist Linguistics**
By Dorthe Duncker (Copenhagen)
- 13:45-14:15 **Conundrums of Their Own Making**
By Mark Stott (Sheffield)
- 14:15-14:30 **Break**
- 14:30-15:00 **Zombie Reason**
By Mary Coghill (Exeter)
- 15:00-15:30 **The Possibilities and Limits of Using the Master's Tools to Dismantle and Rebuild the Master's House**
By Susanne Kass (Prague)
- 15:30-16:00 **Reconnecting Language and Makers: An Integrational Critique of Holborow's *Language and Neoliberalism***
By Nick White (Portsmouth)
- 16:00-16:15 **Break**
- 16:15-17:00 **Plenary Conversation**
- 17:00-17:15 **Concluding Remarks**
By Adrian Pablé (SUPSI)
- Evening **Drinks and Dinner**

Roundtable Day 1

- **Date:** 23rd April, 2026 (Thurs)
- **Venue:** Room C207, College Building, Middlesex University London

- **Programme:**

- 9:00-9:30 **Welcome and Introduction**
By Johan Siebers (London)
- 9:30-10:00 **The (Multi)modality Myth of Language, or Language in Linear Limbo**
By Sinéad Kwok (Hong Kong)
- 10:00-10:30 **Multimodal Language and New Depths of Semiotic Freedom**
By Susanne Kass (Prague)
- 10:30-11:00 **Victim or Survivor? Identity Construction in Victim Narratives and the Concept of Language in the 21st Century**
By Evangelia Mourtzanou (Athens)
- 11:00-11:30 **Break**
- 11:30-12:00 **A Choice with Ramifications**
By Mark Stott (Sheffield)
- 12:00-12:30 **LLMs and the Symbolic Function of Language**
By Gianluca Michelli (Rome and Paris)
- 12:30-13:00 **I Would Have Took...**
By Mary Coghill (Exeter)
- 13:00-14:00 **Lunch**
- 14:00-14:30 **Language, Linguaging, and Multilingualism in a Neoliberal Education**
By Cliff Ndlangamandla (Pretoria)
- 14:30-15:00 **Can Language Teaching Strike a New Chord in the 21st Century?**
By Nick White (Portsmouth)
- 15:00-15:30 **Break**
- 15:30-16:00 **The Extra-Linguistic Substance of Language-ing**
By Kieran McGillicuddy (Le Midi)
- 16:00-16:30 **The Words Don't Work Anymore: Language in the 21st Century?**
By Chris Barnham (Cheltenham)
- 16:30-17:00 **Re-linguaging Communication as a Three-body Problem**
By Peter Kastberg (Aalborg)
- Evening **Dinner**

Roundtable Day 2

- **Date:** 24th April, 2026 (Fri)
- **Venue:** Room C207, College Building, Middlesex University London

- **Programme:**

- 9:30-10:00 **Are There Limits to How We are Prepared to Apply the Term ‘Language’?**
By Adrian Pablé (Ticino)
- 10:00-10:30 **Cosmological Linguistics**
By Johan Siebers (London)
- 10:30-11:00 **Language Questioning Language – or Why the Place of the Study of Language is in the Humanities**
By Dorthe Duncker (Copenhagen)
- 11:00-11:30 **The Current Turn to Historicising ‘Sound’ in the Humanities**
By Artemis Ignatidou (Bayreuth)
- 11:30-12:00 **Break**
- 12:00-13:00 **Plenary Conversation**
- 13:00-13:15 **Closing Remarks**
By Sinéad Kwok (Hong Kong)

Lunch and Excursion (destination TBC)

- The Pre-Roundtable Workshop and the Roundtable are free to attend but **it is necessary to register**, by sending an email to j.siebers@mdx.ac.uk. Please indicate which event(s) you will attend.
- [Directions to Senate House](#); [Directions to Middlesex University London](#)