



ALL Briefing No 8

Date: April 2019

Theme: **OWRI**

Background:

OWRI is the *Open World Research Initiative*, funded by the AHRC (Arts and Humanities Research Council). It aims '*to regenerate and transform modern language learning by foregrounding language's power to shape how we live and make our worlds.*'

There are four projects:

Creative Multilingualism

Cross-Language Dynamics: Reshaping Community

Language Acts and Worldmaking

Multilingualism Empowering Individuals Transforming Societies (MEITS)

Key messages :

These projects host websites with reports, blogs and papers, and they organise events. Some have resources and organise projects.

They offer research insights into different aspects of language and cultural learning and teaching at different levels which help to raise the profile of languages in general.

Members involved in / interested in research themselves will find rich seams to explore.

References :

OWRI

<https://ahrc.ukri.org/research/fundedthemesandprogrammes/themes/owri/>

Creative Multilingualism

<https://www.creativeml.ox.ac.uk/>

has seven interlocking research strands :

[Embodying Ideas: The Creative Power of Metaphor](#)

[Creating a Meaningful World: Nature in Name, Metaphor and Myth](#)

[Creating Intelligibility across Languages and Communities](#)

[Languages in the Creative Economy](#)

[Creativity and World Literatures: Languages in Dialogue](#)

[Creating New Meanings: Prismatic Translation](#)

[Linguistic Creativity in Language Learning](#)

Cross-Language Dynamics Reshaping Community

<http://projects.alc.manchester.ac.uk/cross-language-dynamics/>

aims to develop new Modern Languages research paradigms capable of re-conceptualising the relationship between language and community for the benefit of a more open world.

It has three research strands

Transnational Communities strand

Translingual Communities strand

Multilingual Communities strand

Film projects are included on the website.

Language Acts and Worldmaking

<https://www.languageacts.org/>

aims to regenerate and transform modern language learning by foregrounding language's power to shape how we live and make our worlds.

It has six research strands:

[Travelling Concepts](#)

[Translation Acts](#)

[Digital Mediations](#)

[Loaded Meanings](#)

[Diasporic Identities](#)

[Language Transitions](#)

MEITS

<http://www.meits.org>

Research focusses on the following questions:

- 1: What is the relationship between the multilingual individual and the multilingual society?
- 2: What are the opportunities and challenges presented by multilingualism?
- 3: What is the relationship between multilingualism, diversity and identity?
- 4: What is the relationship between multilingualism and language learning?
- 5: How can we influence attitudes towards multilingualism?
- 6: How can we re-energise Modern Languages research?

Points for reflection / action:

Classroom teachers may wish to explore the practical resources offered e.g. by Creative Multilingualism

[Creative poetry exercises for schools](#)

[Multilingual drama teaching activities](#)

[Teaching guides for creating short films in any language](#)

The [Language Transitions](#) strand of Language Acts and Worldmaking will be of interest to those involved in curriculum planning.

*This work takes a research-informed approach to the practical aspects of learning and teaching modern foreign languages and cultures. **It targets transitions—those border zones of learning between stages that have become more of a hindrance than a stepping stone for so many language learners**—by working on the curriculum at university level, by working with the curriculum at school level, and by trialling transition and foundation courses that allow entry at each further level languages study. It also seeks to empower young students to use their innate language-learning skills, including the mobilisation of their bi- and multi-lingual home experiences.*

This Briefing has been prepared by volunteers from the ALL Council and is for the benefit of ALL members.

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