

# **Language policy and practices in the Global North and South: Challenges, opportunities and future directions**

**Date 09/06/2021**

**Time: 13:00 – 14:30 CET**

**Prof. Annick De Houwer, Harmonious Bilingualism Network, Belgium**

## **Parents with a migration background: What does it take to raise bilingual children?**

**Abstract:** People emigrate at different times of their lives. They may do so as part of a family or as a single individual. They may be parents prior to migration, or become parents after migration. Their co-parent (if present) may have a similar migration background, or none at all. Emigrating often implies moving to a very different linguistic landscape. Some parents are highly proficient multilinguals who are fluent in the new language, others may speak just their language of origin. Levels of education and access to resources differ greatly. Thus, parents with a migration background show a great variety of profiles. Most parents expect children to speak their language of origin. Parents with a migration background also want children to be fluent in the societal language. Yet many parents with a migration background have children who only speak the societal language. This talk focuses on a selection of profiles of parents with a migration background and explores what these profiles might mean for children's dual language learning support.



Annick De Houwer's pioneering research on bilingual children's language development has been highly influential. In addition to many journal articles and book chapters, she has published four books on bilingual children (two with Cambridge University Press, and two with Multilingual Matters), the latest of which is entitled *Bilingual Development in Childhood*. She is the co-editor (with Lourdes Ortega) of the *Cambridge Handbook of Bilingualism*. Prof. De Houwer directs the Harmonious Bilingualism Network ([www.habilnet.org](http://www.habilnet.org)). HaBilNet aims to support and stimulate scientific research into harmonious bilingualism and to make sure the results of that research are widely disseminated amongst families and educators.

**Registration link:** <https://universiteitleiden.zoom.us/meeting/register/u5UqcOGrqT0uGdS01iSiu3Xo7Bj5J5NUXxU5>  
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