

Colin H. Williams (Cardiff University)

Language Strategies, Institutional Competence and the Limits of Regulatory Provisions

williamsch@cardiff.ac.uk

This paper would contribute to the theme of Language Policy and Planning and Institutions.

The paper will deal, *inter alia*, with the manner in which official 'minority' or 'lesser used' language strategies, policies, schemes and standards are embedded within the mainstream of institutional life and the public administration of selected states. It will investigate the following issues: -

1. How well prepared are major institutions to adopt innovative and often 'intrusive' language strategies as part of the development of public life in bilingual and multilingual contexts?
2. The obstacles and barriers to institutional preparedness, capacity-building and implementation of new forms of bilingual public service provision.
3. The effectiveness of regulatory instruments, mechanisms and agencies in securing compliance to the new norms, principles and provisions of the enabling state.
4. The evaluation and implementation of best practice transfer within and between jurisdictions.

Colin H. Williams is Research Professor in the School of Welsh, Cardiff University, U.K. His main scholarly interests are Sociolinguistics and Language Policy in Multicultural Societies, Ethnic and Minority Relations and Political Geography. He has previously taught in Universities in Canada, England and the USA. He has held visiting appointments at the Pennsylvania State University, (1982-83), University of Lund, (1982 and 1988), MHSO Toronto (1993), Oxford University, (2001-2), Ottawa University (2009-2010) Oxford University (2010). Between April 2000 and March 2010 he served as a National Assembly for Wales appointed member of the Welsh Language Board and subsequently as an Adviser concentrating on international aspects of Language Policy and Intergovernmental Relations until the WLB's closure in 2012. He is the author/editor of eighteen books the most recent of which are as co-editor with S. Pertot and T. Priestly, Rights, Promotion and Integration Issues for Minority Languages in Europe. Palgrave Macmillan, 2009. 'Linguistic Minorities in Democratic Context' Palgrave Macmillan, 2008, (pbk) 2013, 'Minority Language Promotion, Protection and Regulation: The Mask of Piety,' Palgrave Macmillan 2013.