



2022-2032 | INTERNATIONAL DECADE OF  
**Indigenous Languages**



# **State of the Art - Indigenous Languages in Research**

Webinar - Concept Note and Agenda

20 May 2022

## Background

Languages are a core component of human rights and fundamental freedoms. They play a crucial role in the daily lives of people all over the world, allowing them to preserve and transmit their knowledge, values, unique modes of thinking, meaning and expression, history, cultures, traditions, and memory to the next generations, but also to participate to society and to construct their future. The extraordinary language diversity found in the world fundamentally contributes to sustainable development, peacebuilding, and reconciliation in our societies.

Despite their immense value, the vast majority of the approximately 7000 world's languages, used by Indigenous Peoples, are at risk of falling into desuetude. Reasons for the endangerment of languages vary across different communities and locations. Indigenous peoples worldwide are experiencing challenges connected to migration, educational disadvantage, illiteracy, assimilation and enforced relocation.

In this context, the United Nations General Assembly declared 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages (IYIL2019), setting its priority to encourage urgent actions to preserve, revitalize and promote Indigenous languages, by integrating the needs of their users in international, regional, and national development and policy frameworks. The International Year culminated with the proclamation of an International Decade of Indigenous Languages (IDIL2022-2032), which provides a unique opportunity to engage in long-term actions and to enhance international cooperation in this area.

## About the IYIL2019 Call for Research Papers

In December 2018, to mark the beginning of IYIL2019, a Global Call for Research Papers was launched, inviting researchers to submit research papers on Indigenous languages that demonstrate a diversity of scholarship around the world in the many different settings of Indigenous languages in multilingual and linguistically diverse societies, with an emphasis on disadvantaged language communities. Researchers, experts, and practitioners from all over the world specialized in Indigenous and language-related issues submitted their articles covering a variety of thematic areas, including public policy, humanitarian affairs, education, cultural heritage, social inclusion, gender equality, language technology, digital activism, science, and health.

Overall, 278 research papers were submitted in 2019, of which 195 in English, 6 in French and 77 in Spanish. To carry out a holistic and cross-thematic analysis of the articles, the members of the Steering Committee of the International Year established an international peer review team including leading linguists, Indigenous researchers and experts with different specializations, under the guidance of a chief researcher and editor in 2020.

The 39 selected research papers (27 in English, 8 in Spanish and 4 in French) were once again reviewed by authors of selected research papers in 2020 and edited by English, French and Spanish editors in 2020 and 2021. The peer reviewers also drafted short resume about each thematic area presenting key research outcomes, their observations, and recommendations for the future research in 2020 and 2021. The final volume of the publication also includes articles produced by the peer-reviewers, summarizing the review process, and providing an overview of the main thematic considerations, identifying relevant recommendations for future research in this field.

This preparation of the multilingual publication "State of the Art - Indigenous Languages in Research: A Collection of Selected Research Papers" benefited from the generous support provided the Government of Estonia and the Government of Japan.

## Format of the Webinar

To launch this initiative, a one-day webinar will be organized on 20 May 2022, involving the participation of the authors of the selected research papers, who will present their work and engage in a dialogue on the state of Indigenous languages research across different topics.

The lead peer reviewer will open the webinar by presenting the rationale and the results of the Global Call for Research Papers. The webinar will include four thematic sessions moderated by peer-reviewers, where researchers will have an opportunity to present their research.

The lead-researcher and peer-reviewers will share reflections at the conclusion of the thematic sessions. The participants of the webinar will be able to address their questions and comments via the Q&A function and chat on ZOOM.

Interpretation will be provided in English, French and Spanish through ZOOM facilities.

## Agenda

Time (CET)	Item
<b>Morning session</b>	
10.00 – 10.10	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Ms Marielza Oliveira, Director for Partnerships and Operational Programme Monitoring, Communications and Information Sector, UNESCO
10.10 – 11.20	<b>Thematic Session no 1: Linguistic diversity and development</b> (9 Research Papers presented) Moderator: Beban Sammy Chumbow (Cameroon)
10.10 – 10.17	<i>“Australia’s language lament: A cry for help” by Jacqueline Cook, Stephanie Cook, <b>Jennifer Gregory-Knivetona, Edith Mahera</b> (Australia)</i>
10.17 – 10.24	<i>“Shifting the Landscape’ for indigenous immersion and bilingual schools. A community-based educational program: Tosepan Kalnemac” by <b>Ana Maria Benton</b> (New Zealand)</i>
10.24 – 10.31	<i>“Integrating local traditional wisdom into school: an example from Papua Guinea” by <b>Cláudio da Silva and Craig Alan Volker</b> (Portugal)</i>
10.31 – 10.38	<i>“The language factor and the impact of the project ‘Gothra Bandhu’: A case study of Thirunelly village” by <b>Hafeesha TB &amp; Vishnu Prasad. K</b> (India)</i>
10.38 – 10.45	<i>“Multilingual education at the multilingual extreme: the case of Melanesia” by <b>Robert Early</b> (Vanuatu)</i>
10.45 – 10.52	<i>“Rethinking the reawakening of Indigenous languages in Australia: Case study of Dharug, Sydney’s sleeping language” by <b>Angela Giovangeli and Tarunna Sebastian</b> (Australia)</i>
10.52 – 10.59	<i>“Translation for indigenous language revitalization: the hope a devolved system of government presents” by <b>Lilliane Oloo</b> (Kenya)</i>
10.59 – 11.06	<i>“Reference Dialect in Yamba orthography development: the question of cultural equality and identity construction and diplomacy” by <b>Talah Benard Sanda</b> (Cameroon)</i>
11.06 – 11.12	<i>« Wi Norè1, Actions formatives et artistiques pour les langues autochtones en Nouvelle-Calédonie » by <b>Anne-Laure Dotte, Véronique Fillol, Stéphanie Geneix-Rabault, Elatiana Razafimandimbimanana, Fabrice Wacalie</b> (New Caledonia, France)</i>
11.12 – 11.15	<b>Remarks by the moderator (1)</b>

11.15 – 12.30	<b>Thematic session no 2: Human Rights and Humanitarian Affairs</b> (10 Research Papers presented) Moderator: Lahoucine Amouzay (Morocco)
11.15 – 11.22	<i>“Indigenous Languages, African Language Media and Development”</i> by <b>Abiodun Salawu</b> (South Africa)
11.22 – 11.29	<i>“A brief description of Southern Alta: A Philippine Negrito language”</i> by <b>Marvin Maximo Abreu</b> (The Philippines)
11.29 – 11.36	<i>“La diversité linguistique dans le nord-est de la République Démocratique du Congo”</i> by <b>Birgit Ricquier, Esaie Bangwabendi Katoba, David Kopa wa Kopa, Charles Kumbatulu Sita Bangbasa, Constance Kutsch Lojenga, Jacques-Riverain Lofemba Boningoli Batita, Jacky Maniacky, Nicolas Mombaya Liwila, et Emmanuel Ngbanga Bandombele</b> (Belgium)
11.36 – 11.43	<i>“Indigenous Languages and Global Health Systems: The ‘Beehive’ Model”</i> by <b>Efrosini Kritikos</b> (Greece)
11.43 – 11.50	<i>“Sustainable developmental challenges with the indigenous knowledge &amp; language of ethno-ecological resources in Bezen, Cameroon”</i> by <b>Evelyn Fogwe Chibaka</b> (Cameroon)
11.50 – 11.57	<i>“Tsakhur: language in danger”</i> by <b>Sofia Melikova and Kurban Omakhanov</b> (Russian Federation)
11.57 – 12.04	<i>“Changing Brazil’s linguistic scenery by officializing indigenous and other local languages”</i> by <b>Jan Aguiar Pöhlmann</b> (Germany)
12.04 – 12.11	<i>“They’ve always been here but we could not hear them. We could not see them.”</i> By <b>Marjorie Crocombe, Rod Dixon, Robert Early, Wilfred Fimone, Rachel Fiu, Joan Gragg, Tifaole Ioane, Mojito Jione, Seu’ula Johansson-Fua, Birtha Lisimoni-Togahai, Anoano Lolohea, Semi Arthur Naisau, Sally Akevai Nicholas, Vae Papatua, Rosarine Rafai, Hendricks Taleo, Melenaita Taumoefolau, Tricia Thompson, ‘Ana Heti Veikune &amp; Fiona Willans</b> (Fiji)
12.11 – 12.18	<i>“Community Radio in Indigenous Languages: A Tool For Sustainable Development”</i> by <b>Moina Khan</b> (India)
12.18 – 12.25	<i>“Indigenous female student in panic station of higher education in Nepal”</i> by <b>Sharmila Shyangtan and Suresh Gautam</b> (Nepal)
12.25 – 12.30	<b>Remarks by the moderator (1)</b>
<b>Afternoon Session</b>	
14.30 – 15.40	<b>Thematic session no 3: Education, Science and Technology</b> (9 Research Papers presented) Moderators: Tatiana Degai (Russian Federation/USA) and Sakriani Sakti (Indonesia)
14.30 – 14.37	<i>“Kūkulu Ola Hou: Reconstructing the Native Hawaiian Medical Inventory and Taxonomy”</i> by <b>Kealoha Fox</b> (United States of America)
14.37 – 14.44	<i>“Its song was forgotten and so was its name...The relation between biological and linguistic richness in Santa María Tlahuitoltepec, Oaxaca, México”</i> by <b>Alfonsina Arriaga-Jiménez, Melissa Castillo-Ibarra, Brenda Johana Cruz-García &amp; Sebastian Pillitteri</b> (Mexico)
14.44 – 14.51	<i>“Indicateurs de la vitalité de l’inuktitut au Nunavut, 2001 à 2016”</i> by <b>Jean-François Lepage</b> (Canada)
14.51 – 14.58	<i>“Building Kani’āina, the spoken Hawaiian language repository”</i> by <b>Keiki Kawai’ae’a, Larry Lindsey Kauano Kimura, Andrea L. Berez-Kroeker, Robert Stauffer, Kaliko Trapp, Kamakaloli’i Walker, Danni Yarbrough</b> (United States of America)
14.58 – 15.05	<i>“Towards a Road Map on Human Language Technology for a Native American Endangered Language”</i> by <b>Luis Camacho Caballero, Rodolfo Zevallos Salazar, Roger Gonzalo Segura</b> (Peru)
15.05 – 15.12	<i>“The Algonquian Linguistic Atlas: Putting Indigenous Languages on the Map”</i> by <b>Marie-Odile Junker &amp; Claire Owen</b> (Canada)

15.12 – 15.19	“Preservation of indigenous languages in the Russian Federation: the case of the Buryat language and digital grassroots measures” by <b>Erzhen Khilkhanova and Esuna Dugarova</b> (Russian Federation)
15.19 – 15.26	“ <i>Jóvenes y Lenguas Indígenas: La Experiencia de Radio Xanich en México</i> ” by <b>Rocío Casariego Vázquez and Sara Makowski Muchnik</b> (Mexico)
15.26 – 15.33	“ <i>Indigenous language technologies in Canada: Assessment, challenges, and successes</i> ” by <b>Patrick Littell, Anna Kazantseva, Roland Kuhn, Aidan Pin, Antti Arppe, Christopher Cox, Marie-Odile Junker</b> (Canada)
15.33 – 15.40	<b>Remarks by the moderators (2)</b>
<b>15.40 – 15.50</b>	<b>Thematic Session no 4: Social inclusion and gender equality</b> (10 Research Papers presented) Moderators: Jorge E. Lemus (El Salvador) and Juan Manuel Espinosa Restrepo (Colombia)
15.40 – 15.47	“ <i>Research, collaboration and recognising the value of indigenous sign languages: a Caribbean perspective</i> ” by <b>Ben Braithwaite</b> (Trinidad and Tobago)
15.47 – 15.54	“ <i>The Linguistic Atlas of Afghanistan, a history of language policies in Afghanistan, and next steps in academic collaborations</i> ” by <b>Rachel Lehr and Florence Shahabi</b> (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland)
15.54 – 16.01	“ <i>Threat or natural fluctuation? Revisiting language vitality of Kata Kolok, the sign language of a village in Bali</i> ” by <b>Hannah Lutzenberger</b> (The Netherlands)
16.01 – 16.08	“ <i>Puntada Palabra Memoria</i> ”: Hilados de Paz y Recuperación de la lengua Kakachukua con el Pueblo Kankuamo en Colombia” by <b>Yolanda Parra, Saray Gutiérrez Montero, Rosa Manuela Montero</b> (Colombia)
16.08 – 16.15	“ <i>Waña jeey: el camino joven hacia la preservación de la lengua y la cultura kumiay</i> ” by <b>Ana Daniela Leyva González and Fausto Ángel Díaz Ojeda</b> (Mexico)
16.15 – 16.22	“ <i>El papel de derecho indígena en la revitalización de la lengua y las epistemologías indígenas</i> ” by <b>Laura Edith Saavedra Hernández</b> (Mexico)
16.22 – 16.29	“ <i>La lengua Toba/Qom en la escuela: alcances y límites de la oralidad y escritura para su uso y mantenimiento</i> ” by <b>Ana Carolina Hecht</b> (Argentina)
16.29 – 16.36	“ <i>Reflexión musical Aymara por medio de su lengua y tradición oral</i> ” by <b>Yaneth Katia Apaza Huanca</b> (Plurinational State of Bolivia)
16.36 – 16.43	“ <i>El léxico, barbera para la comunicación y la revitalización de las lenguas indígenas (el caso del Aymara en Bolivia)</i> ” by <b>Gregorio Callisaya A.</b> (Plurinational State of Bolivia)
16.43 – 16.50	“ <i>Hacia una política lingüística-educativa diferenciada en contextos de alto desplazamiento lingüístico: experiencia pueblo chontal</i> ” by <b>Roselia Vazquez Zarate and Aaron Huey Sonnenschein</b> (Mexico)
16.50 – 17.00	<b>Remarks by the moderators (2)</b>
<b>17.00 – 17.20</b>	<b>Closing session: The Way Forward: discussions for future research</b> Mr Christopher Moseley, Lead-Researcher and Coordinator of Peer-review process, Editor-in-Chief of UNESCO’s Atlas of the world’s languages in danger
<b>17.20 – 17.30</b>	<b>Q&amp;A with external participants (through ZOOM function)</b>

## Registration

[Link to the online registration](#)

## Interpretation

Interpretation services will be provided in English, French and Spanish.

## Social Media

### Facebook:

@IndigenousLanguagesDecade

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### Twitter:

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#IndigenousLanguages #WeAreIndigenous

### Official website:

<https://en.idil2022-2032.org/>

<https://fr.idil2022-2032.org/>

<https://es.idil2022-2032.org/>

## Resources

- [Publication “State of the Art - Indigenous Languages in Research: A Collection of Selected Research Papers”](#)
- [Event page on UNESCO’s website](#)
- [Global Action Plan of the IDIL2022-2032 \(UNESCO, 41 C/INF.14\)](#)
- The International Year of Indigenous Languages: mobilizing the international community to preserve, revitalize and promote indigenous languages / [Flagship Report of the IYIL2019](#) (UNESCO, 2021)
- International Decade of Indigenous Languages, 2022-2032: Global Action Plan: Note by the Secretariat [AR](#) | [EN](#) | [ES](#) | [FR](#) | [RU](#) | [ZH](#) (E/C.19/2022/5)

## Contact Information

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