

**Silvia Melo-Pfeifer**  
**Universität Hamburg**

***Arts-based research on plurilingualism: a focus on initial foreign language teacher education***

**Abstract**

In this talk, I will delve into the potential of adopting arts-based approaches to explore the constitution and dynamics of plurilingual repertoires in foreign language teacher education programs. I will claim that the use of arts-based approaches can give us new insights on how student teachers explore and reflect about their linguistic repertoires and the connections between those repertoires and their career choices. After presenting the epistemological and didactic foundations of current research around the use of arts-based methods as data generation tools, I will then present the potential of two methods I have been using in my teaching practices to explore plurilingualism as lived (Kalaja-Pitkänen-Huhta, 2020): the use of visual linguistic biographies and the writing of plurilingual poetry. To conclude, I will discuss how arts-based approaches can support a more responsive foreign language teacher education, offering opportunities to professional development that challenges a monolingual mind-set and recognises plurilingualism as an inescapable reality in foreign language (teacher) education (Melo-Pfeifer, 2021).

**Required Readings**

Kalaja, Paula & Pitkänen-Huhta, A (2020). Raising awareness of multilingualism as lived – in the context of teaching English as a foreign language. *Language and Intercultural Communication*, 20:4, 340-355, DOI: [10.1080/14708477.2020.1786918](https://doi.org/10.1080/14708477.2020.1786918)

Melo-Pfeifer, S. (2021). Exploiting foreign language student-teachers' visual language biographies to challenge the monolingual mind-set in foreign language education. *International Journal of Multilingualism*, 18:4, 601-618, DOI: [10.1080/14790718.2021.1945067](https://doi.org/10.1080/14790718.2021.1945067)

**Biodata**

Silvia Melo-Pfeifer is full professor of foreign language (French and Spanish) teacher education at the University of Hamburg. Her main research areas are on plurilingual education, pluralistic approaches to languages and cultures in language learning and teacher education, and the use of arts-based approaches in research.



