



**Language Matters:  
A Policy-Research Seminar on Language Acquisition and Newcomer Integration  
Ottawa, October 22, 2009**

**Panelists' Biographies**

**Richard Bourhis**, Université du Québec à Montréal (UQAM)

Richard Bourhis is Professor in the Psychology Department at UQAM since 1988. He has published over 140 journal articles and chapters in English and French on cross-cultural communication, discrimination and intergroup relations, immigration and acculturation, bilingualism and language planning, and has served as consultant on language policy issues for various governments. Since 2006 he is director of the Centre d'études Ethniques des Universités Montréalaises (CEETUM) at the Université de Montréal.

**Monica Boyd**, University of Toronto

Monica Boyd is Professor of Sociology and Canada Research Chair in Immigration, Inequality and Public Policy, University of Toronto. Social and economic inequalities are core themes in Dr. Boyd's research. Her current research projects are on the socio-economic achievements of immigrant offspring, immigrant inequalities in the labour force, the migration of high skilled labor and related re-accreditation difficulties, and the role of language proficiency in the labour market.

**Satya Brink**, Learning Policy Directorate, HRSDC

Satya Brink has a doctorate from Purdue University (USA) and has worked in social policy research at universities, for government, for international organizations and as a consultant. She is currently Director, National Learning Policy Research, Learning Policy Directorate at Human Resources and Skills Development Canada. In her current position, her responsibilities include the development of evidence for policies related to human capital and lifelong learning from early childhood to later adulthood. She is widely published.

**Jean-Pierre Corbeil**, Statistics Canada

Jean-Pierre Corbeil is Chief of the Language Statistics Section at Statistics Canada. In addition to being responsible for linguistic questions in the Canadian Census and the Survey on the Vitality of Official-Language Minorities, he has published several works on the situation and evolution of linguistic groups in the country. He is particularly interested in questions related to the linguistic integration of immigrants as well as questions of education and literacy among official-language minorities.

**Jim Cummins**, University of Toronto

Jim Cummins is a Canada Research Chair in the Department of Curriculum, Teaching and Learning of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE)/University of Toronto. His research focuses on literacy development in multilingual school contexts as well as on the potential roles of technology in promoting language and literacy development.

**Gabrielle Hogan-Brun**, University of Bristol

Gabrielle Hogan-Brun is Senior Research Fellow at the University of Bristol, England. Her research fields are migration, multilingualism, language ideologies and language policy. Among her publications are (with C. Mar-Molinero and P. Stevenson) *Discourses on Language and Integration. Critical perspectives on language testing regimes in Europe*. She is Editor of the book series *Palgrave Studies in Minority Languages and Communities*, and of the journal *Current Issues in Language Planning*.

**Kenise Murphy Kilbride**, Ryerson University

Kenise Murphy Kilbride, Professor Emerita at Ryerson University, is the Senior Scholar at CERIS (the Ontario Metropolis Centre), one of its founding directors, and an active researcher on settlement issues. Her studies have been on immigrant families, women, children and youth, and their needs as related to language acquisition, education, and housing.

**Alanna MacDougall**, Ryerson University Graduate

Alanna MacDougall has an M.A. in Immigration and Settlement Studies from Ryerson University, and is in the process of completing a degree in linguistics at Carleton. She is currently a Senior Policy Advisor at Citizenship and Immigration Canada, though she will be speaking in her capacity as an independent researcher.

**Catherine A. Murray**, Simon Fraser University

Catherine Murray is Professor and Chair of Women's Studies at Simon Fraser University. She is co-author of the B.C. Ethnic Media Study and served as an expert advisor on the Canadian position on the Instrument of Diversity of Cultural Expressions. She has taught in Communication from 1992-2009 and is also Co-Director of the Centre for Policy Studies on Culture and Communities at SFU with keen interest in the changing nature of cultural work, diversity and integration.

**Silma Hudson Roddau**, Progress Career Planning Institute

Silma Hudson Roddau is the President of Progress Career Planning Institute, a career development organization in Toronto that serves over 10,000 clients annually – 80% of which are educated outside of Canada. She has over 15 years experience in social and employment assisted services. As part of her work with stakeholders to help integrate Internationally Educated Professionals (IEPs) into the workforce, she will chair the IEP Conference for 2010.

**Yves Saint-Germain**, Integration Branch, Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Yves Saint-Germain was appointed Director of Language, Information and Community Program Policy at CIC in 2007. He is responsible for knowledge and policy development on language learning, information and orientation, community connections, assessment of newcomer needs, and support for official language minority communities. Mr. Saint-Germain holds an M.A. in Political Science from Laval University, a degree in Financial Management from the École Nationale d'Administration Publique, and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Ottawa.

**Parminder Singh**, CBC/OMNI TV Toronto

Parminder Singh is the voice of CBC's *Hockey Night in Canada* Punjabi Edition broadcast. He began his career in high school, where he became an intern sports reporter for 680News radio. He later switched to OMNI Television where today he hosts two Punjabi programs. His interest in sports and multiculturalism landed him the job at *Hockey Night in Canada*, where in addition to covering the NHL regular season, he provided coverage of the playoffs right to the Stanley Cup Finals. Parminder has also been the Punjabi voice for the Toronto Raptors in broadcasts

that can be viewed across Canada on CBC and across the US on ESPN and ABC. Parminder is pursuing graduate studies at the University of Toronto.

**Heidi Smith**, Immigration Branch, Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Heidi Smith has more than 15 years of experience at CIC, primarily in the area of economic policy development. She has also worked on compliance and litigation issues within CIC. She is currently Director of Permanent Resident Policy and Programs, which encompasses the Federal Skilled Worker Program, the Provincial Nominee Program, the Business classes, and the new Canadian Experience Class. She chairs a Federal-Provincial-Territorial working group on Economic Immigration issues and has represented CIC at various national and international events.

**Wendy Swedlove**, Canadian Tourism Human Resource Council

Wendy Swedlove has been the President of the Canadian Tourism Human Resource Council since its establishment in 1993. Prior to that, she spent eight years with the organization that is now the Canadian Tourism Commission. Wendy is a member of the advisory boards of the tourism and hospitality programs of the University of Guelph and Ryerson University, and is the proud recipient, on behalf of the Council, of four awards.

**Deborah Tunis**, Integration Branch, Citizenship and Immigration Canada

Deborah Tunis was appointed Director General, Integration at CIC in January 2008. She previously served as Director General, Social Policy and worked on disability, children, families and learning issues at Human Resources and Social Development Canada. Ms. Tunis holds a Bachelor of Journalism from Carleton University, a Master of Public Administration from Harvard University and completed the Advanced Management Programme at Oxford University in 2007.

**Rachel Wernick**, Office of Literacy and Essential Skills, HRSDC

Rachel Wernick joined the Office of Literacy and Essential Skills in 2007. Before joining the Government of Canada in 1998, she worked in a refugee camp in Malaysia and also for several international development NGOs. At both HRSDC and CIC, she has worked on different files including: the extension of parental leave, a departmental human capital policy framework, and immigration levels planning.

**Ümit Kiziltan**, Citizenship and Multiculturalism Branch, CIC

Ümit Kiziltan has been with the Citizenship and Multiculturalism Branch of CIC since September 2008. He is now the Acting/Director General. Educated in Turkey and in the United States as an economist and educator, Ümit has worked as a teacher, community developer, administrator and senior economist in different organizations, including Syracuse University, University of Victoria, Assembly of First Nations and CUSO. He has extensive experience working with First Nations communities, as well as in the field of international development. Prior to his current position, Ümit was Director of Program Management and Control at the Health Management Branch of CIC.