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## March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021 (Thursday)



12 PM – 1 PM EST / 11 AM – 12 PM Saskatchewan time

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### *French Immersion for Refugees in Canada: Exploring Inclusion and Language Learning*

**Stephen Davis**  
University of Regina

Abstract:

French immersion programs have traditionally served predominantly anglophone students in their pursuit of French-English bilingualism in Canada. However, as a result of increased global migration, educators and policy developers alike are faced with the challenge of adapting French immersion for increasingly diverse student populations throughout Canada. Researchers have explored the motivation for newcomer allophone families to pursue official-language education in Canada (Dagenais & Berron, 2001; Dagenais & Jacquet, 2000; Mady, 2010); the language proficiency of allophone students in French as a Second Language (FSL) programs (Bérubé & Marinova-Todd, 2012; Carr, 2007; Mady, 2015); the language education policies for allophone learners (Galiev, 2013; Mady & Black, 2012; Mady & Turnbull, 2010); and the perspectives of educators with respect to allophone students in FSL programs (Davis, Ballinger & Sarkar, 2019; Mady & Masson, 2018; Roy, 2015). Drawing from a critical sociolinguistics theoretical perspective, I will adopt a mixed-methods research approach to study the experiences of refugee students and families in French immersion throughout the Canadian Prairies. In this presentation, I will share the findings of my master's thesis research, present my upcoming doctoral dissertation research, and discuss the importance of equitable and inclusive language education for refugee students throughout Canada.

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Stephen Davis is a PhD student and lecturer in the *Baccalauréat en éducation* program at the University of Regina. His research interests include French immersion, critical sociolinguistics, plurilingual pedagogies, and inclusive language education. Stephen's doctoral research will explore the experiences of refugee families in French immersion in the Canadian Prairies.

Please fill out this form to register for this talk and to receive the Zoom link closer to the presentation dates. For more information, please contact John Wayne N. dela Cruz ([john.delacruz@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:john.delacruz@mail.mcgill.ca), Organizer) or Lana Zeaiter ([lane.zeaiter@mail.mcgill.ca](mailto:lane.zeaiter@mail.mcgill.ca), Zoom Host).

\*The *Plurilingual Lab Graduate Talks* is hosted by McGill University's Faculty of Education. This event is **not** video recorded.