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Towards an Inclusive Grammar in Francophone Schools

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**Jan
23**

Date: January 23, 2020
(Thursday)

Time: 12-1:30pm

Location: 3700 McTavish
Street, McGill's Faculty of
Education

Room: EDUC113

Language of presentation:
English
(translanguaging w/ French)

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The teaching of grammar is deeply rooted in francophone school traditions (Chervel, 2006; Dolz & Simard, 2009). Often defined as the “description des règles du système de la langue et des normes d’usage dans sa variété standard” (Chartrand, 2016, p. 2), it can easily facilitate the reproduction of linguistic discourses of prescriptivism; as such, it can benefit students who, outside the school environment, are exposed to a variety of language that resembles the language of instruction (Vargas, 1996). In this talk, I will first give a historical outline of grammar education in the francophone tradition and discuss why it has been perceived as a fundamental component of French education. Using research that supports a socio-contextually anchored grammar education, I will then put forward some pedagogical principles of an inclusive approach to teaching grammar, one that promotes and uses the learner’s full linguistic repertoire.

Joël Thibeault is Assistant Professor of French Education at the University of Ottawa. Through his research, he aims to shed light on the issues related to the teaching of grammar in francophone minority contexts. He is also interested in the use of children’s literature in grammar education and the integrated teaching of French and English at school.