In their 2008 paper, King et al. laid the foundation for the emergence of the field that came to be recognised as Family Language Policy (FLP). Since then, this field of inquiry has received an increasing amount of scholarly attention and has evolved into a burgeoning field over the last decade. In this short time span, the core interests of FLP have shifted: While it initially attempted “to draw direct causal links across ideologies, practices, and outcomes”, it moved on to examining “how families are constructed through multilingual language practices, and how language functions as a resource for this process of family making and meaning making” (King 2016: 728). Recent FLP scholarship has pointed to the necessity of putting under scrutiny the central concepts of family, language, and language policy and not departing from taken-for-granted notions in order to produce situated accounts of FLP (Lanza & Lomeu Gomes 2020). A recent proposal even suggests reimagining the field “under the more all-encompassing label of family multilingualism” (Léglise 2023: 288), arguing that the institutionalisation of FLP as a field has marginalised different kinds of knowledges pertinent to family multilingualism.

Encouraged by the impetus of these and other reflections on the foundations of research on family language policy and family multilingualism, we are organising this Hybrid International Conference on Family Language Policy under the theme of Reimagining the Field. We aim to provide a forum for discussing epistemological, theoretical and methodological considerations around FLP and family multilingualism (FM), for setting future research agendas and for exploring possibilities for establishing regular venues for such exchange.

We specifically welcome contributions in the form of papers and symposia on the following issues:

- Epistemological foundations of FLP/FM
- Key theoretical concepts in FLP/FM
- Nexus of FLP/FM and the wider community
- Interaction between FLP/FM and educational institutions
- Children’s agency
- Digital and multimodal interaction in the family
- Affect and emotion in FLP/FM
- FLP/FM and political economy
- Participatory approaches in FLP/FM

Confirmed Keynote Speakers:
Kendall King (University of Minnesota)
Tadhg Ó hIfearnáin (University of Galway)

Panel Discussion: Reimagining Family Language Policy as a Field
Moderation: Cassie Smith-Christmas (University of Galway)

Submission of abstracts
Abstracts can be submitted for:
- Individual Presentations (20-minute presentation and 10-minute discussion)
- Symposia (90-minute timeslot with at least three contributors – otherwise free format)
The word limit for abstracts is 300 words for individual presentations and 900 words for symposia.
In addition to English, we accept abstracts in the following languages: French, German, Irish, Italian, Scottish Gaelic. Presenters may choose to present in these languages; however, no interpretation service will be provided for individual papers or symposia.
Abstracts can be submitted via Microsoft Form (link in attached pdf) until July 31, 2024. Abstracts will be reviewed by the organising committee. Notifications of the outcome of the review process will be sent by August 15, 2024. We accept remote presentations via Zoom alongside on-site presentations.

Important dates
31.07.2024 Submission of abstracts
15.08.2024 Notification of acceptance
30.09.2024 Registration closes

Conference Fees: none

More information on the Conference Website.

Organising committee (University of Galway)
Chair:
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Members:
Cassie Smith-Christmas
Andrea Ciribuco
Paul Finn

Scientific Committee
Fatma Said (Zayed University)
Irem Bezcioğlu-Göktolga (Tilburg University)
Judith Purkarthofer (University of Duisburg-Essen)
Lorraine Connaughton-Crean (Maynooth University)
Seyed Hadi Mirvahedi (University of Groningen)
Sviatlana Karpava (University of Cyprus)