

Please see below a call for papers for our upcoming volume. Multilingual Matters has expressed initial interest in the project, and we are excited to move forward with a strong collection of contributions from scholars working in this dynamic field.

Call for Papers

Heritage reimagined: Multilingualism, identity, and belonging across family, faith, and digital worlds

Edited by Fatma F.S. Said, Kristin Vold Lexander, and Åsa Palviainen

We invite proposals for chapters for an innovative edited volume that interrogates and redefines the concept of "heritage" in multilingualism studies. Titled *Heritage reimagined: Multilingualism, identity, and belonging across family, faith, and digital worlds*, this volume will explore how heritage is constructed, challenged, and reimagined in everyday multilingual experiences. We welcome empirical, theoretical, and reflexive contributions from across disciplines, including sociolinguistics, linguistic anthropology, education, digital culture, anthropology, and religious studies.

About the volume

In an era marked by global migration, digital transformation, and increasing cultural fluidity, heritage, often linked to language transmission, cultural continuity, and religious practice, can no longer be understood through static, nationalistic, or ethnocentric frames. Instead, we view heritage as dynamic and socially constructed, shaped by complex interactions within families, communities, and digital environments. This volume addresses urgent questions about the meaning and politics of heritage in multilingual contexts, considering the lived realities of individuals navigating heritage across spaces of belonging, faith, and technological mediation.

Key themes and guiding questions

We are especially interested in contributions that engage critically with the following themes:

1. Family as a site of heritage negotiation

- How do parents and children in diverse multilingual families negotiate linguistic and cultural heritage?
- What roles do language choices play in shaping belonging and intergenerational interaction?

2. Religion, language, and cultural continuity

- How do multilingual individuals engage with religious texts, rituals, and spaces?
- What roles do language and faith play in preserving or transforming heritage?
- In what ways do shifting religious landscapes affect the maintenance or transformation of heritage?

3. Heritage in the post-digital age: defying norms

- How do digital platforms (e.g., social media, apps, online religious forums) reshape access to and performance of heritage languages?

- What happens when individuals without familial ties to a language claim it as heritage?
- Can an adopted or reclaimed language become *authentic* heritage? Who owns a language in the digital era?
- How do digital and offline practices intersect?
- 4. **Identity, belonging, and the politics of heritage**
 - How do multilingual individuals, especially youth, balance ancestral languages with contemporary identities?
 - How do language practices affirm or challenge belonging, and when does heritage become a site of tension?

We are particularly interested in chapters that explore:

- Heritage language adoption beyond family (e.g., through activism, academia, or marriage)
- Post-digital practices that blur the line between online and offline identity work
- Ethical tensions between linguistic reclamation, commodification, and appropriation
- Underrepresented perspectives and contexts, including Indigenous, Afro-diasporic, and diasporic communities
- Autoethnographic, collaborative, or decolonial approaches to heritage

Submission details

Please submit an abstract of **300–400 words**, along with a short **bio (100–150 words)** for each author, by **August 15, 2025**. Abstracts should clearly outline the chapter's relevance to the volume's core themes and its empirical or theoretical contribution.

Submit your proposal to: Fatma.said@zu.ac.ae

Accepted authors will be notified by **October 1, 2025**.

Full chapter submissions (6,000–8,000 words, including references) will be due by **January 15, 2026**.

We are in discussions with a leading academic publisher and will confirm the publishing details in due course.

Editors

- [Fatma F.S. Said](#) – Zayed University, UAE
- [Kristin Vold Lexander](#) – University of Inland Norway
- [Åsa Palviainen](#) – University of Jyväskylä, Finland