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Forum för Afrikastudier

Decolonizing Research Methodologies
Virtual Seminar

**From linguistic exclusion to multilingual conviviality?
Language and multilingualism in formal education systems in
West Africa and beyond**

with Professor Friederike Lüpke
University of Helsinki

Friday 24 March 2023, 14.15 – 16.00 (CET)

60 years after independence and despite great efforts to introduce local languages into formal education and institutions, the official languages of colonial origin, spoken by a fraction of the population only, continue to have the quasi monopoly in West African states. This status quo is symptomatic of their formal education systems being built on monolingual standard ideologies and language separation, instead of being open to the convivial multilingual practices characterising wider society. Drawing on personal experience, e.g., in development programmes in Guinea and Mali, the LILIEMA multilingual education programme in Senegal and collaboration with the UNESCO programme for education in Mali, I connect my account of structural and social dimensions of multilingualism with new visions for inclusive multilingual education, also extending it to Global North societies.

Friederike Lüpke is Professor of African Studies at the University of Helsinki. Her research on multilingualism focuses on Mali, Senegal, Guinea and Finland. Together with a local team of transcribers, researchers and members of the association LILIEMA ("Language-independent literacies for inclusive education in multilingual areas") she has developed a repertoire-based literacy programme for highly multilingual situations.

Zoom link: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/68339538915>

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