Forskningsmiljön Språk och kultur
Institutionen för kultur och samhälle (IKOS)
Research Environment Language & Culture
Department of Culture & Society

Forskarseminarium
onsdag 7 oktober 2020
kl 10.15-12 i Comenius (Key-huset) eller via Zoom (se utskick)
Research Seminar
Wednesday 7 October 2020
10.15-12.00 in Comenius (Key Building) or via Zoom (see emailed invitation)

Striving for an inclusive pluralism of environmental perspectives in language education and teacher training
(en presentation av forskningsskissen)

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Abstract

What is termed ‘the ecological crisis’ should be considered a problem associated with our cultural ways of being and knowing in relation to the natural world and our place in it (Martusewicz et al, 2015: 57). The notion of transformative learning has emerged as a key concept in the drive towards more sustainable societies (Linner and Wibeck, 2019) and is seen as being particularly useful in helping to bring about cultural transformation through its focus on unsettling normalised culturally-propagated narratives regarding our place in society (Boström, 2018). In recognition of our interdependence with the rest of the biosphere, we might extend this notion to our position as both ethical and ecological entities within an earth community. My research seeks to draw on the diverse fields of critical literacy, critical language awareness, educational research design, social practice theory, systemic functional linguistics, critical discourse analysis, and ecolinguistics in order to develop an approach to classroom text analysis towards the goal of transformative learning in an era of ecological crisis. My research interests lean heavily in the direction of the identification and use of a range of environmental discourses (as opposed to environmental discourse) as pedagogical tools for developing both linguistic and environmental awareness in pre-service English language teachers. However, as the world has been beset by Covid-19, and with the prospect of other zoonotic diseases, looming antibiotic resistance, species extinctions, climate heating, and the concomitant need to communicate our species’ reliance and intimate connection to nature, I veer away from many established approaches to analysing environmental discourses by placing a particular emphasis on how the micro features comprising environmental discourses represent, essentialise and socially construct the natural world and our relationship and responsibilities towards it. Research priorities include the further development of my previous research (Bellewes, 2019) through the application and testing of a novel framework for specifically analysing and categorising ‘discourses of representation’ towards the ultimate goal of developing and testing a classroom text analysis approach based on an inclusive pluralism of ecological positions (Kopnina & Cherniak, 2016).