

Social Justice Forum, Thursday 27th of April, 14:30 – 17:30

[ALTEs 8th International Conference, Madrid, 26-28 April 2023](#)

Language tests are often portrayed as instruments that open doors to professional and educational opportunities, thereby fostering integration and democratic participation. While it is clearly the case that passing a language test may grant access to education, jobs, and citizenship, it is equally true that not passing such tests denies other candidates these same opportunities. Language tests are tools of selection that function as both door-openers and gatekeepers within a larger societal system. Language tests are never value neutral but represent and reproduce certain ideas of what counts as acceptable and appropriate language forms and language use. **In this forum we wish to examine the values underlying language tests as well as the different roles that language tests play in the societal system and discuss whether and how high-stakes language tests can be a force for the good.**

To that end, this forum provides a venue for scholars from different disciplines to reflect on the use of high-stakes language tests in society. The presentations will be followed by a discussant tying the topics raised together.

Welcome & introduction: Social justice – barriers and opportunities	Cecilie Hamnes Carlsen	10
Human rights issues in the migration context	Zvezda Vankova	20
Access to assessment and feedback for learning	Antony John Kunnan	20
Policymakers, language testers, and language testing associations: How dialogue and engagement can shape the societal role of language tests	Laura Anne Schildt	20
Citizenship test exemptions around Spanish and Catalan	Kamran Khan	20
BREAK (16:00-16:30)		30
Plurilingual Profiles and Multilingual Needs of Adult Refugees and Migrants in Greece and Italy	Anna Mouti	20
Language testing and language rights	Dina Vilcu	20
Discussant	Nick Saville	10
Round-off	Cecilie Hamnes Carlsen	10