

UNESCO RILA
SPRING SCHOOL 2024

THE ARTS OF
INTEGRATING

Word Springs




MON-FRI **13-17 MAY 24** LANGUAGE
TASTER SESSIONS

TUE-THU **21-23 MAY 24** CONFERENCE

CALL FOR CONTRIBUTIONS

[BIT.LY/RILASPRING24](https://bit.ly/rilaspring24)



**We invite proposals for
workshops/presentation/performances/creative
interventions for the UNESCO RILA Spring School 2024
which connect with the theme of “word springs”**

The UNESCO Chair in Refugee Integration through Languages and the Arts is working on five key ideas. One of those is “enhancing and replicating models for refugee integration by intentional multilingual learning with refugees and with new host communities, in order to foster creativity, diversity of cultural expressions and intercultural capabilities”.


This year, the UNESCO RILA Spring School will link to that idea and will focus on words and languages, on communication and on discourse, on repertoires and on silence. We invite proposals that explore, showcase, celebrate, experiment, teach and share integration practices and research that have language at their heart.

We want to find out more about intercultural communication, about language hierarchies, about discourse and changing meanings of words. We want to learn about new words and language learning, about language loss, about language revival and about multilingual integration processes. We want to hear the word ‘welcome’ in many languages, but we also want to explore what it means when words fail us. We want to learn about the power of poetry, of words that comfort, of the solace of silence. We welcome the languages of music, of dance, of theatre.

At this year’s Spring School, we want to examine our words and work with all of our languages and repertoires, or ways of finding meaning and making meaning together. We are interested in any contribution that brings in linguistic creativity and diversity to inform or learn from multilateral integration and intercultural initiatives.

Sub-topics

We invite submission which touch on or address:

- Intercultural capabilities, cultural expressions and linguistic diversity
 - Language hierarchies, discourse, meaning making and meaning changing
 - Language learning, language loss and language revival
 - Silence, words of comfort and finding words
 - Intercultural communication through the arts
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Structure of the Spring School

This year's Spring School will be split into two. We are aiming for a programme of language taster sessions the week commencing 13 May, followed by 3 days of in-person conference on 21-23 May at the University of Glasgow. We will structure the contributions in set blocks of 5/30/45/60/90 minutes, and proposals should bear this in mind. However, this is just a guide and proposals of a longer/shorter duration will be considered. We are open to most types of interaction at the Spring School!

Ways to contribute

- Workshop – please indicate maximum workable group size, if applicable.
- Presentation – If your proposal has a more academic slant, this format might work better. You will be allotted 30 mins. We suggest 20/10 or 15/15 mins presentation and discussion.
- Language taster session – Must be for absolute beginners, you will be allotted 60 mins.
- Interview / panel discussion
- Pecha Kucha style presentation – 5 minutes each, these will be grouped into a longer session
- Performance – theatre, dance, song, music, poetry, spoken word, storytelling etc.
- Physical exhibit – Poster or installation for the communal areas – the exhibit can be accompanied by a short video/audio description through a QR code.
- Hackathon/problem solving session – you would get 5 minutes to present your problem, followed by 10 minutes of collective problem solving
- Other. You can take people on a walk, you can organise a flash mob, be creative!

Submission Process

Please submit a short proposal describing your contribution to unesco-riila@glasgow.ac.uk. If you like forms, you can download the proposal form from our website here [insert link]. If you don't like forms, feel free to send us your proposal in one of the following formats:

- Written description of maximum one side A4 (11pt Arial)
- Link to an Audio/video recording of maximum 4 minutes

Please include:

- Title of your contribution;
- Which topic(s) of the Spring School your contribution addresses, and how;
- Format and duration of contribution;
- A description of the contribution and its aims;
- Names and organisations of the people involved in your session;
- Any audio-visual, IT, space, access, language or other requirements

Deadline for submission is midnight on Monday 5 February 2024!

Next steps

Proposals will be reviewed by members of the RILA team, and you will be notified of the outcome before 20 February 2024. An abstract, biography, and images for the programme will be requested upon acceptance and we will request this is returned by Monday 4 March 2023.

Fees & Expenses

The Spring School runs on a very tight budget – this is how we can ensure it remains FREE to all with no registration fees. We cannot pay presenter fees. We have a very, very small travel budget to support a very limited number of presenters. If your proposal is accepted, you will receive more information on how to apply for travel support, should you need that. Priority will be given to those without a steady means of income.

Childcare

Due to the location of the event, it will not be possible to provide on-site childcare. If you will require childcare, please get in touch with us as soon as possible, to see if we can assist or partially subsidise childcare as required. If your child is very small, you might be able to bring it along. Contact us if this is something you would like to do.

Venue

The event will take place in the Clarice Pears building of the University of Glasgow, part of the School of Health & Wellbeing. Address: 90 Byres Road, Glasgow, G12 8TB. This building is dog-friendly, so be prepared to come across dogs and bring your antihistamine if you are allergic. Dogs are not allowed in the workshop rooms. This building has a lot of nice features, such as adjustable lights (blue-yellow and dimmers) in all the rooms, which makes it particularly suitable for neurodiverse people and for those sensitive to light. All the rooms are on the ground floor and are fully wheelchair accessible. Contact us if you have access issues and need disabled parking close to the venue.

Questions/comments

For questions, comments or to discuss your ideas, please contact Bella Hoogeveen in the UNESCO Secretariat at unesco-rila@glasgow.ac.uk.

Additional reading

Information on previous UNESCO RILA Spring Schools

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/unesco/events/springschool/>