

School of Humanities and Social
Sciences
Research Seminar Series

Department of Applied Linguistics

12 January, 2026
Monday

11:00-12:00

HS436
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Innovation and Collaboration in Language Education

Any questions please contact:
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Abstract

This talk offers a comprehensive overview of innovation in language education, drawing on the unique perspective of Argentina and South America in general. I will first examine the evolving regional landscape through three critical lenses: how multilingual histories inform modern policy, the transformative role of digital initiatives in promoting equity, and the key insights these models offer for global bilingual education systems. Building on this foundation, the talk will then delve into a groundbreaking case study: the pioneering Argentine-Chinese School in Buenos Aires. As the first dual-immersion Mandarin-Spanish public school in the region, it serves as a powerful model for transcultural bilingual education. I will analyze its innovative curriculum, which masterfully balances language proficiency with deep cultural literacy, and the specialized collaborative framework developed for its teachers and students. This journey from broad policy to a specific, replicable partnership showcases how strategic alignment can turn linguistic diversity into an educational advantage. By navigating challenges from pedagogical traditions to script differences, this project provides valuable lessons for building equitable and successful global educational partnerships, particularly between Chinese and international institutions.

Speaker

Dr. Cristina Banfi is a distinguished Professor at the University of Buenos Aires with over three decades of experience in linguistics, language policy, and teacher education. She has held significant leadership roles, shaping the educational policy of Buenos Aires as Director of Languages in Education at the Ministry of Education. She holds advanced degrees from the University of Cambridge (M.Phil.) and University College London (Ph.D.), had research fellowships in the United States and United Kingdom, and has collaborated extensively on language projects across Latin America. A prolific scholar, she has authored key publications on language acquisition, including *El Aprendizaje de Idiomas: Cómo Habla la Mente* ('Language Learning: How the Mind Speaks'). Dr. Banfi's work bridges theory and practice, focusing on bilingual education, innovative pedagogical models, and the intersection of technology and language learning. Professional websites:

<https://uba.academia.edu/CristinaBanfi>
<https://theglobalseal.com/cristina-banfi>