



BAAL Researcher Development Workshop 2023: Thinking critically about 'impact': a workshop for PhD students and ECRs in (critical) applied linguistics

22nd May 2023, University of Birmingham

Contributing to society is increasingly understood as a core value of research. To this end, 'impact' has become a key element of scholarship, particularly for acquiring funding. In response, university departments provide a range of support for impact initiatives. At the same time, the impact agenda has been widely critiqued, which leaves many - particularly PhDs and ECRs working with critical discourse-ethnographic approaches - feeling apprehensive. Despite these concerns, there is very little space allocated to addressing 'impact' from critical perspectives.

This workshop seeks to plug this gap by bringing together PhDs and ECRs who are hesitant about 'impact' and who wish to engage in critical reflection on the theoretical, ethical and political challenges of researcher intervention/engagement. The workshop will provide a space to map out these concerns and challenges, engage in a roundtable discussion with scholars and practitioners involved in a range of research and engagement projects, and receive peer feedback on research-engagement plans.

We will address questions such as: what role can and should applied linguistic research play in social transformation? What happens when engagement goes wrong? What responsibilities does the researcher have and to whom? What particular challenges of impact arise for critical and ethnographic approaches? How do we theorize social change, inequality and power, and what consequences does this have for our understanding of 'engagement'? What ethical and political concerns arise in such projects? What alternatives can we offer to marketized understandings of 'impact'? What role does social justice play in such engagement? Is engagement always possible - or desirable?

The workshop is designed to be a first step in developing a PhD and ECR community of practice of researchers in Applied Linguistics grappling with this important topic.

To apply: <https://forms.office.com/e/MrgbgHk5gd>

Deadline: March 31st 2023

For more information, please contact the workshop organisers: Peter Browning (p.browning@bham.ac.uk) and Katy Highet (katy.highet@uws.ac.uk)