

EMI: Voices from the Northern European Context

Program text

Through 'voices' of EMI teachers, the presenters will address issues lecturers' attitudes about language policy, language proficiency, teaching procedures, and the impact of EMI on teacher identity.

Abstract

The increase of the use of English as the language of academia in institutions of higher education has resulted in the implementation of English medium instruction (EMI) courses and programs in non-Anglophone settings. This increase is particularly strong in Northern Europe, i.e., "the Netherlands, Denmark and Sweden, in that order, are the European leaders in the provision of higher education in English" (Wächter & Maiworm, 2014, p. 46).

In this presentation, this growing phenomenon will be discussed from the perspective of non-native English speaking university lecturers. Drawing on studies in the field, the presenters explore issues concerning language policy, lecturers' attitudes to EMI, lecturers' language proficiency, the need to implement new teaching procedures to overcome language weaknesses and to support student learning, and the impact of EMI on teacher identity. Through the 'voices' of teachers across disciplines, the presenters will exhibit expressions of not only concerns, frustration and anxiety, but also reflections on ways to professionally navigate in English to meet the demands of the multilingual and multicultural classroom. The research presented stems primarily from the Northern European context, with particular focus on the University of Copenhagen, and documents how EMI can be studied from multiple perspectives in the same institutional context (Henriksen, Holmen, & Kling, 2018).

Links to international research on EMI will be presented and discussed, with a comparison to studies that have investigated EMI in other parts of the world, documenting how many of the same challenges are experienced by university lecturers across higher education contexts.

Author(s)

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Literature

Henriksen, B., Holmen, A., & Kling, J., (2018). *English Medium Instruction in Multilingual and Multicultural Universities*. Oxen: Routledge.

Wächter, B., & Maiworm, F. (Eds.). (2014). *English-taught programmes in European higher education: The state of play in 2014*. Bonn: Lemmens Medien GmbH.