

Call for Papers for a One-Day Symposium on Law and Language

Exploring the Intersection between Law and Language on International Mother Language Day

Date: 21 February 2024

Location: Peel Park Campus, University of Salford

Organisers: Dr Emma Roberts, Head of Law, and Dr Ayesha Chowdhury, Lecturer in Law

We are delighted to invite submissions for an upcoming event on **21st February 2025** to mark **International Mother Language Day**. This event will focus on the intersection between **law and language**, exploring how legal frameworks protect linguistic diversity and safeguard the rights of linguistic minorities globally. We invite scholars, researchers and postgraduate students to submit papers on a range of themes that address how language influences legal systems, inclusivity and justice.

Legal protections for languages—whether found in international agreements, national constitutions or domestic legislation—are critical in preserving cultural heritage and promoting social cohesion. These legal instruments ensure access to justice, education and public services in minority languages and foster inclusivity in multilingual societies.

This event aims to raise awareness of the importance of preserving endangered and marginalised languages and to celebrate the role of multilingualism in fostering understanding, dialogue and peace across communities.

Against this background, we are seeking abstracts on the following themes:

- Legal Protection of Mother Languages and Endangered Languages
- Socio-Legal Examinations of the Intersectionality of Law and Language
- Navigating Language Interpretation within Legal Systems
- Minority Languages and the Law
- Law as a Tool to Promote Linguistic Diversity
- Enhancing Access to Justice through Multilingualism
- Overcoming Legal Language Barriers and Promoting Inclusivity
- Fostering Inclusivity through Language in Legal Practice
- Legal History of Language Rights

- Language and Legal Education
- The Language and Linguistics of the Courtroom and the Justice System

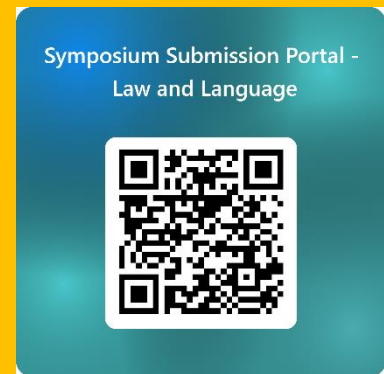
The above list is not exhaustive, and we welcome abstracts that align with the Symposium's general theme of exploring the intersection of law and language in all its many forms. Interdisciplinary papers beyond legal studies are also welcomed and the list above is not intended to be prescriptive in terms of the methods, theory, object or approach taken.

The event will be open to **legal and linguistic scholars**, with postgraduate students encouraged to present and undergraduates invited to participate in the wider discussions.

Celebrating multilingualism and diversity on International Mother Language Day commonly aligns with the Society of Legal Scholar's broader goals of promoting and the University of Salford's commitment to ensuring equality, diversity and inclusion. Held at the **University of Salford**, near the culturally rich city of Manchester, the event will reflect on the vibrant linguistic diversity of the region. Manchester, home to speakers of over 200 languages, serves as a symbol of multiculturalism and provides the perfect setting for this event.

To submit your proposal, please note the following:

- **Deadline for submission:** 6 December 2024, midnight.
- **Abstract length:** 400 words
- **Submission format:** All submissions must be submitted using this MS Forms link: <https://forms.office.com/e/FfqjcmSG6>
Submissions received over email will not be considered.
- **Notification of acceptance:** Successful proposers will be notified by 20 December 2024.



The event will be delivered in **hybrid format**, with a view to engaging a **global audience**. The preference is for speakers to join us in person.

The event will be **free to attend**. Further details on how to register for the event will be available in early January 2025.

If you have any questions about the event, please contact lawandlanguage@salford.ac.uk.

We look forward to your contributions.

Key Dates

