

Languages of the Wider World

Centre for Excellence in Teaching and Learning

Seminar Series

Language Teaching for Democratic Citizenship

Dr Hugh Starkey

5th March at 17.00

Language Space, 1-4 Malet Place, UCL



Abstract

This paper proposes some principles that language teachers and course writers can use to inform their preparation of activities and materials that contribute towards education for democratic citizenship (EDC). By definition EDC includes a political dimension, since democracy means choices and discussions that do not always result in agreements. Some teachers may find a political role uncomfortable or be unsure how it can be justified in a public education system. Before presenting the principles, I consider why language teachers should be concerned with EDC and the issue of how this can be included in a language teaching programme. Drawing on evidence from interviews with language teachers, I suggest that issues of identity are important for teachers and learners of languages and for EDC. I also consider some of the barriers that language teachers may face when they attempt to implement EDC through language teaching.

Dr Hugh Starkey

Hugh Starkey is Reader of Education at the Institute of Education, University of London, where he is co-director of the International Centre for Education for Democratic Citizenship. He has developed and is responsible for a distance learning MA programme in citizenship and history education.

All Welcome

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