TESOL TALKS
Teachers of Multiple Languages: What TESOL Professionals Need to Know

Zoom - Friday, April 19th,
6:00-7:00PM Pacific Time

bio: Eric graduated from the MA TESOL program in 2013. He is currently a Specially Appointed Associate Professor at Hokkaido University in Japan, where he teaches undergraduate EFL courses as well as sociolinguistics and qualitative research methodology courses. His research interests include language teacher identities, multilingualism, linguistic landscapes, and visual and arts-based methods of qualitative research. He serves on the Editorial Advisory Board of TESOL Journal and is the author of the new monograph, Teachers of Multiple Languages: Identities, Beliefs and Emotions.

Eric K. Ku
Associate Professor, Hokkaido University, Japan

Abstract: Do you know anyone who has taught multiple languages? In today's increasing multilingual and globalized world, as language researchers and educators, we likely know someone (friends, colleagues, students, research participants, etc.) who has taught multiple languages, but we might not know about it. Perhaps, we never thought of asking them and assumed that, by default, a language teacher has only been singularly teaching the language we have come to know them by. But perhaps more importantly, we don't have sufficient language to talk about it — after all, how would someone who teaches (or has taught) multiple languages identify themselves? In this talk, I make the argument that "teachers of multiple languages" or "TMLs" are a distinct group of language teachers that have been overlooked in language teaching research. I provide an overview of who TMLs are, how prevalent TMLs are, and what we know about TMLs from current research. Finally, I discuss why an awareness of TMLs is important for TESOL professionals in both teaching and research.

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