Engagement with university immersion/CLIL: Lessons learned from research in French; New Pathways in English.

Organized by: Valia Spiliotopoulos and the Post-Secondary Immersion Research Group (PSIRG), University of Ottawa.

This pre-conference event examines issues of engagement and transition to immersion programs at the university level. Firstly, we will examine historical trends and research to date in the area of immersion and content and language integration at the post-secondary level in a variety of Canadian contexts and beyond, while taking into consideration equity, diversity, and inclusion initiatives in an increasingly bi/multi-lingual and multicultural student and faculty population. Secondly, issues of engagement and transition will be addressed by both language and disciplinary faculty and students who have been involved in immersion, both in the 15+ year French Immersion program at l’ILOB, as well as the new English immersion program delivered in collaboration with disciplines such as Economics, Communications, Engineering, and Business.

The event will encourage scholarly dialogue by examining important areas of commonality, as well as key differences between French post-secondary immersion and similar immersion/content and language integrated programs in English in a variety of contexts across Canada. The diverse perspectives and emergent findings will raise questions about future research directions, as well as program design and delivery models in different regional contexts, within disciplinary cultures, and given technological advances. The research dialogue will ultimately aim to foster inclusive practice by supporting the engagement and successful transition of culturally and linguistically diverse populations.