Editorial

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This special issue of *Language Policy* addresses language policy and multilingualism in the media. Each paper investigates ways in which language use is regulated and ordered by various actors in multilingual media contexts. Collectively the papers propose a multilayered, actor-centered field of inquiry into language policies in the domain of media. The actors of language policing examined in this issue range from macro-level institutional agents (e.g., bodies regulating language use at national level) to meso-level institutions such as minority media, to individual language users interacting with global media products. Drawing on discursive data from a variety of media settings, the papers analyze the normative ordering and regulation of language use and engage with a number of theoretical issues in the field. These include the conceptualization of language and multilingualism, and the polycentric nature of language policy and normativity.

The papers were generated through an international seminar series exploring *Social Aspects of Language Diversity* which was held during the years 2006–2008 in Finland, Estonia and Ireland. Coordinated by the University of Jyväskylä, the seminar series was established to facilitate collaboration on research into multilingualism and language diversity across disciplines, cultures and research communities. The seminars brought together twenty researchers from nine European countries to investigate forms, processes, and effects of European multilingualism as it is manifested in global and local practices. The initial ideas leading to this special issue were conceived in a seminar held in Tallinn in September 2007, inspired by discussions following a guest lecture by Elana Shohamy on challenges to the theoretical and institutional foundations of language policy. The papers were developed through dialogues and collaborations in an attempt to adopt a multilayered understanding of language policy to globalized media contexts.

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