

Individual Paper Session 9
Bilingualism and Processing
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Prospect or promise – the future of short-term English immersion programs in Australia

Susan Bridges
Griffith University
S.Bridges@griffith.edu.au

Internationalisation initiatives in language education in the Asia-Pacific region have been driven by various global and local forces. While the latter can be seen currently as mutually advantageous for second language ‘immersion’ or ‘study abroad’ programs, they also hold the prospect for tension if Australian goals for internationalisation are not clearly aligned with those of participating international students.

Talk data from a recent case study of an English language immersion program for teachers from Hong Kong are analysed in conjunction with recent Australian federal policies in internationalisation.

Findings reveal that goals of participants and policy makers hold areas of commonality but also signal areas of prospective dissonance. The latter holds implications for Australia’s future internationalisation activities in short-term language programs. At the end of the paper, these implications are identified and questions regarding the future of internationalisation are opened for debate.