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### **Bio**

Nikolay Slavkov is Full Professor and Director of the Canadian Centre for Research and Studies in Bilingualism and Language Planning (CCERBAL) at the Official Languages and Bilingualism Institute (OLBI) of the University of Ottawa. His research contributions include keynote addresses, edited volumes, journal articles, and book chapters on language pedagogy and innovation, child language development, family language policy, technology, bilingualism, multilingualism, and (Slavic) linguistics. His work has appeared in the *AILA Review*, *Canadian Modern Language Review*, *International Journal of Multilingualism*, *International Journal of Bilingual Education and Bilingualism*, *Foreign Language Annals*, *Second Language Research*, *Immersion Journal*, *Canadian Journal of Applied Linguistics*, *TESL Canada*, *Lingua*, and *Journal of Slavic Linguistics*. He has taught in Canada, the United States, China, and Bulgaria.

### **LANGUAGE POLICY, DECOLONIALIZATION, BILINGUALISM AND MULTILINGUALISM IN CANADA**

This presentation aims to take a critical perspective on Canada, a G7 country that can be viewed as progressive, democratic, and pluralistic as well as a country that is (like other G7 or wealthy countries) continuously facing the demons of a colonial and racist heritage (e.g., Haque and Patrick 2015). I paint a non-exhaustive portrait of the languages used currently and previously on this land and relate this portrait to dominant narratives, discourses, and labels representing colonial and hegemonic constructs. To illustrate the argument, I shine the spotlight on discourses that represent Canadian official bilingualism or *linguistic duality* as a defining characteristic of the fabric of Canadian society, a means of unification and communication across the vast territory of the country. I juxtapose such discourses with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC)'s report and the Indigenous Languages Act, which were created by the federal government to acknowledge and attempt to address dark episodes of Canada's colonial history and practices of eradicating Indigenous languages. I also address the situation of immigrant/heritage languages, which have a less turbulent history and a more privileged position in the sociolinguistic hierarchy of the country but are still subject to some marginalization and minoritization.