

PLM2026 Keynote lecture

The power of language: How the codes we use to think, speak, and live transform our minds

Viorica Marian (Northwestern University)

Bilingualism and multilingualism have profound consequences for individuals and societies. Learning multiple languages changes not only how we use language, but also how we perceive the world, what we remember, how we learn, our creativity, decision making, and identity. I will present eye-tracking and neuroimaging evidence showing that multiple languages continuously interact in the mind, influencing our brains and the way we think. I will conclude with a call for placing the study of language-mind interaction and bi/multilingualism among the core areas of scientific investigation if we are to gain an accurate understanding of humanity's potential.