



Universität Hamburg
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FAKULTÄT

FÜR ERZIEHUNGSWISSENSCHAFT

LITERACY IN DIVERSITY
SETTINGS (LIDS)



Language, Migration and Legal Literacy

LiDS Lunch Lecture mit Dr. Laura Smith-Khan

Developing a sound understanding of the law is crucial for social participation and access to justice, and in migration contexts forms an important part of integrating and flourishing in a new country. Knowing one's rights and responsibilities can help prevent issues from arising, while understanding how to respond if they do occur supports efficient resolution and avoids escalation. Yet, recent migrants may face barriers when building legal literacy. Opportunities and challenges also vary across groups depending on language repertoires and multilingual resources. This seminar shares findings from a pilot project examining Australian service providers' efforts to educate the public about law, legal processes and services. Using interviews, surveys and public texts, it applies a '4-A' rights-based framework (O'Brien et al 2018; Grey 2023) to explore strategies for making resources available, accessible, acceptable, and adaptable for diverse communities.



Dr. Laura Smith-Khan is a Senior Lecturer in Law at the University of New England, Australia and an external affiliated member of the Centre for the Social Study of Migration and Refugees (CESSMIR), Gent University, Belgium. Her research is interested in the participation of minoritized groups in legal settings, especially migration processes. She was the 2022 recipient of the Max Crawford Medal, Australia's most prestigious award for achievement and promise in the humanities. She is co-founder and co-convenor of the Law and Linguistics Interdisciplinary Research Network, and a member of Language on the Move and Next Generation Literacies.

Freitag, 17. Oktober 2025

12:15-13:45 Uhr, Raum 213

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<https://uhh.de/ew-lids>