

**The Netherlands Institute for Academic Studies in Damascus (NIASD)**  
has the pleasure to invite you to the lecture

***Becoming an Intercultural Speaker, Acting as a Mediator:  
A Challenge for Now & for the Future***

*by dr. Marie Christine Kok-Escalle (Utrecht University):*



Curricula are social constructs, depending on historic, economic and cultural circumstances. The ideal of educating an intercultural speaker has now replaced the ideal of a (near)native speaker education, according to the changes of our globalizing world. Recent international research proposes to see the intercultural speaker as a social actor able to mediate between two cultures. Intercultural Communicative Competence combines communicative and intercultural competence and seeks to change the emphasis from multilingual education to intercultural communication education, which is necessary for mediation in for example business, mind and knowledge development, in social contexts of societies with migrants or other diverse cultural groups, respecting cultural diversity and complex identities.

Presenting some examples of good practices, dr. Kok-Escalle will try to illustrate how the field of Intercultural Communication Education is related to a multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary scientific field with essential goals for our societies in the worldwide context: “Building communication between people and across languages and managing the speed of communication against the slowness of people” (Wolton).



***On Sunday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010, at 7:00 pm, at the NIASD***



**Dr. Kok-Escalle** studied History at the University of Paris, Sorbonne, and Semiotics at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes en Sciences Sociales (seminar of A.J. Greimas). As Associate Professor in French Culture at the Utrecht University, she developed an MA programme on Intercultural Communication for students of Modern Languages. For the past ten years she has participated in European programmes, doing research on Intercultural Mediation, Multilingual and Multicultural Education. As a member of the research team preparing the Handbook of Multilingualism and Multiculturalism, (C. Kramsch, D. Lévy, G.

Zarate, EDAC, Paris 2008 French version / 2010 English version), Dr. Kok-Escalle coordinated the historic chapter.

Language: English – with Arabic translation  
Location: Bldg 85, Al Farabi St., East Mezzeh, Damascus.  
Time: 19H00  
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