

## Bio-data

Joseph Lo Bianco is a past president of the Australian Academy of the Humanities (the first educator elected to this role) and is well known as the author of Australia's first official and formal language policy, the National Policy on Languages, adopted in 1987 by the Federal Government as a coordinated and comprehensive approach to language policy and planning for the country.

The National Policy on Languages addressed all of Australia's language needs and interests (English and English literacy, and English as a second and foreign language and languages other than English (including Indigenous language rights, immigrant and foreign languages) as well as language services (research, translating and interpreting, public media) and is often cited to as an exemplar of successful multilingual planning. In November 2017 the University of South Australia held an international symposium devoted to reflecting on the 30 years of experience in language planning inaugurated by the National Policy on Languages.

Between 1990 and 2001 Professor Lo Bianco served as founder and director of the National Languages and Literacy Institute of Australia, also known as Language Australia, created to establish a strong presence of research on language in Australian education to support the full implementation of language policy. This involved coordinating 32 national research agencies and bodies in diverse areas and applying their research to solving language and communication problems, and to embed applied language studies within Australian higher education.

Professor Lo Bianco holds the following academic qualifications: *Bachelor in Economics and Political Philosophy* (Monash University, 1976), Graduate Diploma in Migration Studies (Monash University, 1979); *Bachelor of Education* (La Trobe University, 1987); *Master of Arts in Language Studies* (University of Melbourne, 1986); *Doctor of Philosophy* (Australian National University, 2001, thesis entitled: *Officialising Language: Discourse, English and Public Policy in the United States*); and *Company Directors' Diploma* (University of Sydney; 1996).

In 2003 he was appointed to his current role as **Professor of Language and Literacy Education** at the Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne Australia where he teaches on language and literacy education, sociolinguistics, bilingualism, language policy and planning and multicultural studies. He supervises PhD research projects and teaches courses in language planning, and supports international research projects in several countries on language and culture studies, language planning and multiculturalism/intercultural education

He has led major international research and policy advising assignments in different parts of the world and published extensively on language policy and planning, with a total of 130 refereed journal articles and book chapters and 30 major reports and books. In 2012 he was invited to design a multi-country research project on language, peacebuilding and social cohesion for UNICEF in South East Asia. Since then he has directed and implemented the resulting Language, Education and Social Cohesion (LESC) project in Malaysia, Myanmar, Thailand, and is negotiating its extension to Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam and Indonesia. Under LESC Professor Lo Bianco has conducted 38 'facilitated dialogues' in multilingual conflict affected settings to resolve disputes about language issues and to instigate research and direct planning on multilingual policy. Since 2011 he has also served as senior research advisor for LUCIDE, a European Commission project on *Languages in Urban Communities - Integration and Diversity for Europe*, advising on a large scale 6-year research activity on multilingualism at the municipal level in 12 European cities.

In January 2014 he commenced in an academic advisory role with the National Research Centre for Foreign Language Education at Beijing Foreign Studies University.

Professor Lo Bianco has advised on language, culture and literacy education, and on the integration of indigenous and immigrant children into mainstream schools, reconciliation and peace through education, in many countries, including the Council of Europe, Sri Lanka, Ireland, Wales and the UK,

Italy, Slovenia, Canada, Vietnam, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea among others.

Other language policy advising activity includes the provision of language services for the Sydney Olympic Games, a report which was subsequently used to support multilingualism at the Athens and London Games, assistance to the government of Ireland to produce a 20 year strategy to support the vitality of Irish, support on basic education, literacy and language policy in South Africa, Hawaii, Italy, Alberta (Canada), Western Samoa and other Pacific Island countries, preparation of a National Language Education plan for the Government of Sri Lanka, 1999, under World Bank financing; commissioned support for language policy in Scotland and Northern Ireland Department of Education on language policy and multiculturalism as part of the Good Friday Peace Agreement, 2000-2003, consultancy to the Israel Ministry of Education and many other international collaboration activities.

Awards in recognition of innovation and service received by Professor Lo Bianco include:

- 2017 Universitas-21, Network of Leading Research Universities, International Excellence Award
- 2016 Excellence in Engagement – Public Value Award, University of Melbourne  
*Recognising exemplary engagement beyond the academy and creatively applying academic resources to create public value.*
- 2016 FIPLV 2016, International Language Educator Award  
*For sustained innovation and guidance in addressing challenges in international language policy and education.*
- 2003 Centenary Medal Citation: *“For service to Australian society and the humanities in literacy planning”*
- 1999 Fellow, Australian Academy of the Humanities Citation: *“one the most influential writers in applied linguistics in Australia and internationally”*.
- 1999 Commendatore nell’Ordine di Merito della Repubblica Italiana, June 1999. Awarded by the President of the Republic of Italy for services to language research and teaching and in recognition of contributions to Australian-Italian cultural relations.

Some recent publications are:

- Learning from Difference: Comparative Accounts of Multicultural Education. Editors J. Lo Bianco and A. Bal, Springer, 2016.
- Malaysia Country Report: LESC Initiative, UNICEF, 2016.
- Myanmar Country Report: LESC Initiative, UNICEF, 2016.
- Synthesis Report: LESC Initiative, UNICEF, 2016.
- Language planning and student experiences: authors J. Lo Bianco and R. Aliani, Multilingual matters, 2013.
- China and English: Globalisation and the dilemmas of identity. Editors J. Lo Bianco, J. Orton and G. Yihong, Clevedon, UK, Multilingual Matters, 2009.
- Second languages and Australian schooling. Australian Council for Education Press, 2009.

He is currently finalising the following academic volumes, a book commissioned by Springer Publishing on *Peacebuilding and Language Policy*; a book being finalised with a colleague in Tunisia to be published by Multilingual Matters entitled: *Language Ideologies and Debates in Post-Revolutionary Tunisia*; and a volume on *The Multilingual City*, also with Springer.