**Bilingual life after school?**

**Linguistic practice and ideology among Gaelic-medium educated adults**

This seminar will examine the reported language practices, social profiles and linguistic ideologies of participants in a ground-breaking study of Gaelic-medium educated adults in Scotland. Research conducted by the speaker at the University of Edinburgh investigated language use, ideologies and attitudes among a purposive sample of 130 adults who received Gaelic-medium education (GME) at primary school, after it first started in 1985. This project drew on both quantitative and qualitative methods to assess the degree to which past GME students use Gaelic, in tandem with the perceptual and sociological correlates which may underlie these usage patterns. A bilingual online questionnaire which focused on language use, attitudes and socio-demographic backgrounds elicited 112 responses between 2011 and 2013. These were analysed statistically using Spearman’s correlation co-efficient (rho) in SPSS to examine the possible relationships between non-parametric social and linguistic variables. Additionally, semi-structured interviews were conducted with 46 informants (28 of whom also competed questionnaires) located throughout Scotland as well as further afield, whether in England or overseas. Crucially, the majority of participants’ day-to-day Gaelic language use was limited, although notable exceptions to this pattern were found among speakers who were substantially socialised in the language at home during childhood, and those who work in Gaelic-oriented professions in the present day. Specifically, this paper will address the extent to which participants in this investigation report using Gaelic in the work, home and community environments, and examine the sociological and ideological correlates of these professed language practices.