

Drs. Beatrice S. and David I. Miller  
Education Seminar Series  
Indiana University School of Education  
PRESENTS

**BIRGIT BROCK-UTNE**  
**PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION  
& DEVELOPMENT**  
**UNIVERSITY OF OSLO, NORWAY**



Thursday, February 17  
4:00 pm

IUB School of Education  
Auditorium  
*Reception to Follow in the Atrium*

**“LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION IN AFRICA:  
A SPECIAL FOCUS ON TANZANIA”**

**PRESENTATION ABSTRACT:**

THERE SEEMS TO BE A GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT CHILDREN LEARN BEST WHEN THEY UNDERSTAND WHAT THE TEACHER IS SAYING. BUT IN AFRICA CHILDREN DO *NOT* UNDERSTAND WHAT THE TEACHER IS SAYING. THE USE OF THE LANGUAGES OF THE FORMER COLONIAL POWERS AS LANGUAGES OF INSTRUCTION CONSTITUTES AN EFFECTIVE BARRIER TO KNOWLEDGE FOR MILLIONS OF AFRICAN CHILDREN. WHY ARE THESE FOREIGN LANGUAGES STILL RETAINED AS LANGUAGES OF LEARNING? WHAT ARE THE FORCES WORKING FOR AN ENTRENCHMENT OF THE COLONIAL LANGUAGES? WHAT ARE THE ARGUMENTS USED? WHAT ARE THE FORCES SUPPORTING THE USE OF AFRICAN LANGUAGES WITH WHICH CHILDREN ARE MORE FAMILIAR? THE LECTURE WILL BUILD ON MY CURRENT RESEARCH AND FIELD-WORK IN TANZANIA AND SOUTH AFRICA. THE DEBATE ON THE ISSUE OF SHIFTING THE LANGUAGE OF INSTRUCTION IN TANZANIAN SECONDARY AND HIGHER EDUCATION FROM ENGLISH TO KISWAHILI WILL BE LOOKED AT IN SOME DETAIL.

BIRGIT BROCK-UTNE IS A PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT AND DIRECTOR OF THE M.PHIL. IN COMPARATIVE AND INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF OSLO. SHE IS THE NORWEGIAN PROJECT LEADER OF LOITASA, OF LOISA, THE NORWEGIAN RESEARCH COUNCIL PROJECT, AN ANALYSIS OF POLICIES AND PRACTICES CONCERNING LANGUAGE IN EDUCATION IN PRIMARY SCHOOLS IN SOUTH AFRICA AND SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN TANZANIA AND OF NETREED. BROCK-UTNE HAS HER DOCTORATE IN PEACE STUDIES. SHE IS A NATIVE SPEAKER OF NORWEGIAN WITH NATIVE-LIKE PROFICIENCIES IN ENGLISH, GERMAN, AND KISWAHILI, READING PROFICIENCY IN FRENCH AND BEGINNING CONVERSATIONAL SKILLS IN JAPANESE. SHE WORKED AS A PROFESSOR OF EDUCATION AT THE UNIVERSITY OF DAR ES SALAAM (1987-1992) AND HAS SINCE WRITTEN NUMEROUS ARTICLES ON EDUCATION IN AFRICA. HER LATEST BOOK IS *WHOSE EDUCATION FOR ALL? THE RECOLONIZATION OF THE AFRICAN MIND*. NEW YORK: FALMER PRESS. 2000.

*DISCUSSION: FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2005  
10:00 AM TO 11:00 AM  
ROOM 2277, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION*