



# Language Policy: Lessons from Global Models

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The September 2001 conference was the first of three, meetings planned to explore language policy issues at the global, U.S. national, and California regional levels. As it happens, the conference convened on Monday, September 10. The first day's lively exchanges and a gala dinner on the evening of September 10 left all participants primed for a concluding day of intense discussions. The horror of

the September 11 attacks came as we in California were rising for breakfast. By the time the conference reconvened Tuesday morning, it was clear that events on the other side of the continent were momentous. We reviewed our options, but reluctantly decided that “business—not as usual” was the best course. Therefore, while it was difficult to concentrate on the topics at hand, the conference proceeded, with interruptions for updates on the tragedy unfolding on the East Coast. In the wake of September 11, conference participants were stranded in Monterey until the resumption of air travel in the United States—some international departures were delayed up to 10 days. At a time of high international tension and stress, participants were far from home and family. Thankfully, all were remarkably patient and understanding.

Language is *inter alia* about communication and identity. The language policy agenda of this conference is central to many of the human issues that dominate international politics today. September 11 has increased the urgency of these issues. The authors in this volume provide examples of both insight and creativity in language policy from around the world; their work is a significant contribution to international politics and intercultural understanding.

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