Parents with a migration background: what does it take to raise bilingual children?

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People emigrate at different times of their lives. They may do so as part of a family or as a single individual. They may be parents prior to migration, or become parents after migration. Their co-parent (if present) may have a similar migration background, or none at all. Emigrating often implies moving to a very different linguistic landscape. Some parents are highly proficient multilinguals who are fluent in the new language, others may speak just their language of origin. Levels of education and access to resources differ greatly. Thus, parents with a migration background show a great variety of profiles.

Most parents expect children to speak their language of origin. Parents with a migration background also want children to be fluent in the societal language. Yet many parents with a migration background have children who only speak the societal language.

This talk focuses on a selection of profiles of parents with a migration background and explores what these profiles might mean for children's dual language learning support.