Toward a political economy of linguistic boundaries

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The aim of this contribution is to introduce the topic of the colloquium by presenting its theoretical and epistemological underpinnings and highlighting its relevance for contemporary sociolinguistic research.

After an inevitably selective overview of the state of sociolinguistic research on language borders and boundaries and on the political economy of language, I will put forward the necessity of situating the boundary making processes within a political economy of language in order to tackle contemporary societal and economic changes and the challenges they may pose for sociolinguistic questions and research. The chosen focus on processes of linguistic boundary (un)making allows to unveil complex sets of power relations and their implications for the access to material and symbolic resources.

Keywords: linguistic boundaries, political economy of language.