

## **Family language policy in light of racialized identities: The case of Afghan families in Norway**

With a population of around 20000, Afghan families have settled in Norway for the past two decades and formed second young generation of Afghans in the country (with over 5000 children born in Norway). Afghans in Norway are refugees and asylum-seekers that have been in other countries such as Iran, Turkey and Greece before their settlement in Norway.

Their refugee background and the specific life trajectories they have gone through distinguish them from other migrant families. Against this backdrop, this paper investigates language ideologies, the dynamics of language socialization and identity formation in extremely under-researched Afghan families in Norway. Working within the *sociolinguistics of the South*, this research aims to contribute to family language policy scholarship by focusing on how the specific life trajectories of Afghan refugee families and the sociopolitical, economic, and cultural structure Norway inform the parents' and children's language ideologies and practices and identity formation. The data sets include 2 hours of interview with parents and 10 hours of family interactions from each of the 5 participating families residing in a Norwegian city. The initial analysis shows that language proficiency in Dari, the heritage language, as well as identity formation differ across generations. While parents, born and raised in Afghanistan, have developed proficiency in Dari, their children are able to understand Dari, but often answer back in Norwegian. In terms of identity formation, parents, who have suffered on their way to settlement in Norway, seem to be fine with their children identifying themselves as Norwegian. Responding to increasing calls in sociolinguistics to include Southern perspectives, this paper is an attempt to shed light on how such concepts as race, ethnicity, identity and so on may differ in families from Global South informing their language ideologies and practices living in diaspora.

