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On plurilingual practices: A French perspective

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As a rule, in France and in Europe at large, multilingualism refers to language diversity at the societal level whereas plurilingualism is used when describing language diversity at the individual level. This contribution highlights points of convergence and divergence between English-speaking and French-speaking research on plurilingualism and multilingualism. It introduces to francophone research work on plurilingualism and multilingualism in Europe, both in terms of conceptualization and use in the field of didactics. It surveys the dispute between J. MacSwan and García et al. on codeswitching, translanguaging and plurilingualism. Finally, the paper offers some explanations for the fact that French-speaking research has been little impacted by translanguaging and the debates it stirred in Anglophone research.