



THE UNIVERSITY OF
MELBOURNE

RUMACCC is delighted to present as part of its 10th Anniversary celebrations:

The Inaugural Michael Clyne public lecture



Prof. Catrin Norrby, Stockholm University

Good evening Stockholm! English in Scandinavia – monster or mate?

Travellers to Scandinavia are often struck by the generalized high level of English proficiency in most of the region. According to the Eurobarometer language survey (2006) the overwhelming majority of respondents in Denmark, Finland and Sweden speak at least one if not two languages in addition to their mother tongue. There is no doubt, however, of English's privileged place in all this: 89% of Swedes claim to be able to speak English. This knowledge of English has long been identified as an important factor in Scandinavia's successful economic development and international engagement.

Focussing our attention mostly on Sweden, we discuss how such a situation of English predominance came to be the norm, and consider different aspects such as: (1) recent trends in attitudes to English as seen in official language planning nationally as well as in language policy and reality in Swedish universities; before turning our attention to (2) use and attitudes re English amongst the general public – including in the city streetscape. We aim to show that there is a significant tension between contrasting trends of accepting and controlling the role of English in Swedish society.

Date: 23rd February, 2012

Time: 5-6pm

Followed by drinks and nibbles and a short book launch (*Uniformity and diversity in language policy: Global Perspectives*) 6-7pm

Location: ICT building, Barry Street (near cnr Pelham St), Parkville. Theatre 3, Second floor. (MEL 2B C9)

If you wish to attend, please pre-register at

<http://challengingthemonolingualmindset.eventbrite.com.au>

For all enquiries please contact Dr Yvette Slaughter ymslau@unimelb.edu.au