

DOCTORAL PROGRAMME

11 October 2016, Fribourg (Switzerland)

Multilingualism: Acquisition, Education, and Society
University of Fribourg | Institute of Multilingualism

PhD Workshop LANGUAGE, RACE AND RACIALIZATION

Prof. Jennifer Leeman, George Mason University (USA)

Chair: Prof. Alexandre Duchêne, University of Fribourg (Switzerland)

Abstract

This workshop aims to examine the role of language in the construction, ascription and performance of race and racial identities in governmental and institutional discourses and everyday talk, as well as the ideological function of language in the racializing of minoritized groups.

The first part of the workshop will begin by examining theoretical perspectives on race and racialization, including consideration of various ideologies of race and multiple definitions of racialization, including the assignation of a racial identity to a group of individuals, the portrayal of cultural or behavioral characteristics as if they were biologically-based, and the discursive linking of a given social phenomenon with a specific ethnoracial group. Next, the links between language, race and racialization will be explored.

The second part of the workshop will examine language, race and racialization from an empirical perspective, looking at the ways in which the US Census Bureau's changing formulations and uses of questions on ethnicity, race and language in the classification of Latina/os reflect shifting ideologies of language, race and nation, and examining the ways that these ideologies are reflected and reinforced in the public outcry that surrounded the release of *Nuestro Himno*, a 2006 Spanish-language version of the US national anthem. The consideration of these two cases is meant to provide insights on the sociohistorically situated and interdiscursive nature of race and racialization, and to prompt students to discuss the ways in which language, race and racialization are part of their own research.

How to apply?

Please register with Dr. Sebastian Muth at sebastian.muth@unifr.ch until Friday, September 30, 2016 the latest to be considered for participation in the workshop.

About the guest speaker

Prof. Jennifer Leeman (George Mason University)

Jennifer Leeman is Associate Professor of Hispanic Linguistics at George Mason University where she teaches courses on Spanish in the US, multilingualism, language policies and politics, and heritage language education. She also serves as Research Sociolinguist at the US Census Bureau where she conducts research on multilingual survey development and administration, with special attention to the race, ethnicity and language questions.

Her current research focuses on the construction and negotiation of ethnoracial identities in the US census; the interplay of ideology, policy and measurement in the production of national language statistics, and critical approaches to the teaching of Spanish as a local-foreign language. She has published in numerous journals and volumes, with recent articles appearing in the *Annual Review of Applied Linguistics*, *Modern Language Journal*, and the *Handbook of Educational Linguistics* (Routledge).

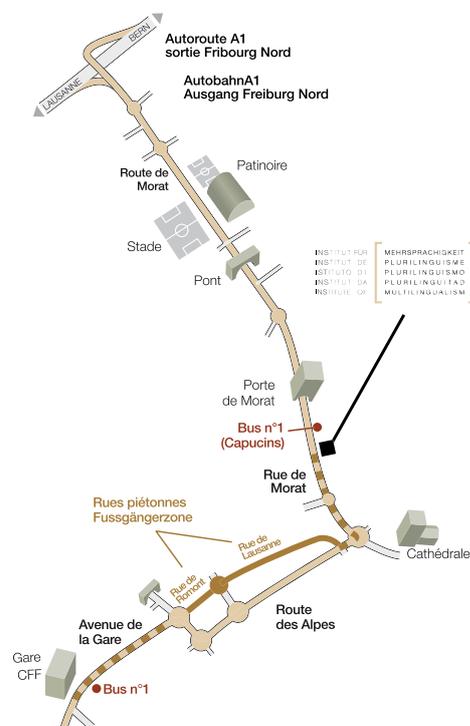
Required reading

1. Chun, E. and Lo, A. (2016). "Language and Racialization." *Routledge Handbook of Linguistic Anthropology*. New York: Taylor and Francis, 2016. 220-233.
2. Bailey, B. (2000). "The language of multiple identities among Dominican Americans." *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology* 10.2: 190-223.
3. Leeman, J. (2013). "Categorizing Latinos in the history of the US Census: The official racialization of Spanish". In J. Del Valle (Ed.) *A Political History of Spanish: The Making of a Language*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. 305-324.

Also available in Spanish

Leeman, J. (2016) "La clasificación de los latinos y latinas en la historia del censo de los Estados Unidos: la racialización oficial de la lengua española." In José Del Valle (ed.) *La historia política del español*. Madrid: Editorial Aluvión. 354-379. [Expanded Spanish-language version of Leeman 2013]

Access to the Institute of Multilingualism



From the train station: 15 min by foot or by bus (bus N° 1 to Saint-Léonard/Portes de Fribourg, code N° 10 to buy a ticket), get off at „Capucins“ (third stop after the station), go back about 50 meters.

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