

<u>Workshop ID :</u>	40
<u>Workshop Duration :</u>	Workshop - 2 Days
<u>Workshop Title :</u>	African Youth Language
<u>Workshop Leader :</u>	Ellen Hurst, University of Cape Town

This workshop will build on recent developments in African sociolinguistics by bringing together scholars working on various forms of youth language relevant to the African continent. For example, a burgeoning area of current sociolinguistics research explores what are known as AUYLs (African Urban Youth Languages) such as Sheng from Kenya, Tsotsitaal from South Africa, Camfranglais from Cameroon and Nouchi from Ivory Coast. These phenomena are variously described as emerging vernaculars (McLaughlin 2009: 9), new languages (Kioko 2015: 125), antilanguages (Kiessling and Mous 2004), and styles or registers of African languages (Hurst and Mesthrie 2013). This field of research has important implications for language change in African contexts. These language forms are also often linked to other related semiotic practices such as gesture (Brookes 2004), performance and sub-cultural styles (Hurst 2009), music (Inyabri 2016), performance poetry (Nopeceforthcoming) and so on. There is also an expanding literature on the use of youth language in social media and digital communications throughout the African continent. Additionally, papers will be welcomed on other types of youth language and styles, such as ludlings, gang registers/ argots and secret languages, and gendered language styles such as those spoken within LGBT communities.

The workshop hopes to cover different aspects of youth linguistic performance in Africa, such as the linguistic features of youth language(s) and their impact on language change; particular linguistic and discourse features such as metaphor, semantic shift, phonological and syntactic features amongst youth; multilingual practices in linguistically diverse urban centres; rural youth language practices; youth language in the African diaspora; global influences on African youth language practices and vice versa; youth culture and language in Africa (e.g hip hop, social media, performance poetry etc.); gesture and youth language; theoretical framings of youth language practice; and methodological considerations in youth language research.

Selected References:

- Brookes, Heather, 2004. A repertoire of South African quotable gestures. *Journal of Linguistic Anthropology*, 14(2) 186-224.
- Hurst, Ellen, 2009. Tsotsitaal, global culture and local style: identity and recontextualisation in twenty-first century South African townships. *Social Dynamics*, 35(2) 244-257.
- Hurst, Ellen and Mesthrie, Rajend, 2013. "When you hang out with the guys they keep you in style": The case for considering style in descriptions of South African tsotsitaals. *Language Matters*, 44(1) 3-20.
- Inyabri, Idom, 2016. Youth and Linguistic stylization in Naija Afro Hip Hop. *Sociolinguistic Studies*, 10(1-2) 89-108.
- Kiessling, Roland and Mous, Maarten, 2004. Urban youth languages in Africa. *Anthropological Linguistics*, 46 (3), 303-341.

Kioko, Eric, 2015. Regional varieties and 'ethnic' registers of Sheng. In: Nico Nassenstein and Andrea Hollington (Eds.), *Youth language practices in Africa and beyond*. pp. 119-148. Berlin: De Gruyter Mouton.

McLaughlin, Fiona (ed.), 2009. *The languages of Urban Africa*. London: Continuum.

Nopece, Unathi, *forthcoming*. Examining the Linguistic (and non-Linguistic) Influences on Urban Performance Poetry in South African Contemporary Youth Culture. In: Ellen Hurst and Fridah Kanana Erastus (eds.) *African Urban Youth Languages: New Media, Performing Arts and Sociolinguistic Development*. Palgrave Macmillan.

