

<u>Workshop ID :</u>	52
<u>Workshop Duration :</u>	Workshop - 1 Day
<u>Workshop Title :</u>	Raciolinguistics
<u>Workshop Leader :</u>	Samy Alim

This workshop brings together leading researchers in an important and necessary yet often overlooked area of inquiry and points the way forward in establishing future directions of research in the emerging and rapidly expanding field of *raciolinguistics* (Alim, Rickford& Ball, 2016). Over the past two decades, sociolinguists have complicated traditional understandings of the relationship between language and identity (Bucholtz and Hall 2004), including growing attention to key axes of identity and inequality such as gender, sexuality, and race. But while research traditions that explore the linguistic complexities of gender and sexuality have long been established, with specific journals and regular conferences dedicated to their growth, the study of race as a linguistic issue has been consolidating only recently. Early variationist sociolinguistic work often used race as an analytic prime to arrive at correlational linguistic patterns (Wolfram 1969; Labov 1972; Baugh, 1983; among many others), and in linguistic anthropology, race was often set aside in favor of a focus on culture.

New sociolinguistic and linguistic anthropological approaches have produced substantive research examining language and race as social processes (Hill 1993; Urciuoli 1996; Zentella 1997; Spears 1999; Morgan 2002; Santa Ana 2002; Makoni et al. 2003) and continue to do so (Reyes 2007; Hill 2008; Mendoza-Denton 2008; Reyes and Lo 2009; Alim and Reyes 2011; Bucholtz 2011; Dick and Wirtz 2011; Rosa forthcoming; Rickford& King forthcoming). In keeping with a substantial body of theoretical work on race (e.g., Omi and Winant 1994; Murji and Solomos 2005), recent sociolinguistic research emphasizes that race is not an explanation for social phenomena, as it has traditionally been viewed, but is instead itself a social phenomenon: That is, race is the result of sociopolitical processes that require systematic examination. Further, linguistic analysis brings a crucial perspective to this project by revealing the ways in which language and race are mutually constituted as social realities.

Workshop contributors are committed to analyzing language and race together rather than as discrete and unconnected social processes; raising critical questions about the relations between language, race, and power; taking intersectional approaches that understand race as always produced in conjunction with class, gender, religion, sexuality, nation, and other axes of social differentiation; looking comparatively across diverse raciolinguistic contexts to better understand the role of language in maintaining and challenging racism as an enduring, global system of capitalist oppression; and considering the complexities of language and racialization both historically and within rapidly changing demographic shifts, migrations, and technological advances of the 21st century. This workshop represents a timely and urgently needed effort to focus the field of linguistics on both the central role that language plays in racialization and on the enduring relevance of race and racism in the lives of People of Color.

Selected References:

- Alim, S. H. & Reyes, A. (2011). Contemplating race: articulating race across multiple social dimensions. *Discourse & Society* 22(4), 379-384.
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- Makoni, S., Smitherman, G., Ball, A. F., & Spears, A. K. (2003). Eds. *Black Linguistics: language, society, and politics in Africa and the Americas*. London: Routledge.
- Murji, K. and Solomos, J. (2005). Introduction: racialization in theory and practice. In: Murji, Karim and Solomos, John eds. *Racialization: studies in theory and practice*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 1–27.
- Zentella, A. C. (1997). *Growing up bilingual: Puerto Rican children in New York*. Oxford: Basil Blackwell.