

ANTHROPOLOGY 514 LANGUAGE AS SOCIAL ACTION

Fall 2017 • Rutgers University • Thursday 9:15-12:15pm • RAB 302

Becky Schulthies, Ph.D.

Office: 312 RAB

Office Hours: Thursday 12:30-2pm

Email: becky.schulthies@rutgers.edu

Phone: 848-932-4122

Course Objectives:

We all engage and utilize language daily, whether through conversation, reading or writing. We also use it, in coordination with other sign systems, to define ourselves in relation to each other: our identities, social relations, and interpretations of our own and others' behavior. Many scholars have argued that symbolic language is one of the features unique to our species and meaning-making through language is a central project of human history (Hockett 1964, Levi-Strauss 1958). Yet we often take language for granted, despite its importance to all human societies. We also map ideologies of symbolic language onto non-human communicative systems (Kockelman 2010, Kohn 2013), leading to a consequential array of interactional outcomes.

This course provides an introduction to some of the central theoretical and methodological issues involved in the study of language as social action. The overview this class offers will begin with a historical survey of some of the foundational texts and theories that have shaped the study of language and society. In particular, we will examine theoretical approaches to language that treat it as a semiotic system, a theoretical orientation on which the vast majority of research on language in cultural context rests. We will consider some of the implications of adopting such an approach. We will then turn to ways in which theories of culture have relied on linguistic patterning and language modeling, emphasizing how linguistic structures relate to aspects of culture that have been of seminal and enduring interest to anthropological research practices. This includes the interest in the semiotics of multispecies ethnography. We will then turn to a variety of specific topics. These areas of active contemporary research in linguistic anthropology will include language and identity (individual and collective); semiotics and affect theory; language shift and social movements; as well as the political economy of language and the semiotics of inequality. We will introduce some of the central tools analysts use to explore language in social context. We will focus on those properties of signs that allow users to interpret and act in the social world. *The ultimate goal of the course is thus to gain a broad appreciation for the ways in which semiotic theories and language use are at the very core of the processes by which many forms of knowledge are brought to life, put into practice, and passed on or erased.*

Intended learning outcomes:

- Critically engage theories of language and social action
- Learn semiotic anthropology methods useful for ethnographic work
- Apply key semiotic anthropology theory to your own work

Assignments (See Sakai for details):

- Class Discussion (20 points): prepare and lead class discussion once during the semester
- Weekly Summary Posts (30 points): Write a two-paragraph summary of the readings (no more than 400 words), organizing it as an essay with a thesis stating what you see as the key point of each week's material. Include two questions the readings raised for you at the end of your summary. Please cite using AAA citation style, and post by 5pm the Wednesday before class on the Sakai forum topic link. Then make sure to read the questions from your classmates' posts.
- Interview activity (20 points): conduct an interview on a topic related to your research. Prepare a topic transcription of the interview; a two-page write-up of an interview focusing on semiotic form rather than semiotic content; and a detailed transcription of 2 minutes of the interview, including a transcription key and a brief rationale for your transcription choices.
- Theoretical Application Paper (30 points): prepare a six page, single-spaced literature review of two linguistic anthropology topics relating to your research.

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Required Texts:

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- Mendoza-Denton, Norma. 2008 *Homegirls: Language and Cultural Practice Among Latina Youth Gangs*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Urla, Jacqueline. 2012. *Reclaiming Basque: Language, Nation and Cultural Activism*. Reno: University of Nevada Press.
- Readings on Sakai

Recommended Reference Texts

- Ahearn, Laura. 2017. *Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology*. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell Publishing.
- Agha, Asif. 2007. *Language and Social Relations*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Duranti, Alessandro (ed.). 2001. *Key Terms in Language and Culture*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Duranti, Alessandro (ed.) 2004. *Companion to Linguistic Anthropology*. Malden, MA: Blackwell.
- Hanks, William. 1996. *Language and Communicative Practices*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

CLASS SCHEDULE

Date	Readings	Optional Readings
Sept 7 Why learn about interaction in anthropology?	<p>Sapir, Edward 1985 (1933) Language. In <i>Selected Writings in Language, Culture and Personality</i>, David G. Mandelbaum, ed. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 7-32.</p> <p>Goodwin, Marjorie H. 1990 "Talk as social action." In <i>He-Said-She-Said: Talk as Social Organization among Black Children</i>. Bloomington: Indiana University Press, 1-26.</p> <p>de la Cadena, Marisol 2015 <i>Earth Beings: Ecologies of Practice Across Andean Worlds</i>. Durham NC: Duke University Press, preface & 1-34</p> <p>Shankar, Shalini 2017 Linguistic Anthropology in 2016: Now What? <i>American Anthropologist</i> 119(2):319-332</p>	<p>Agha, Asif 2007 <i>Language and Social Relations</i>. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1-13</p> <p>Duranti, Alessandro 1997 <i>Linguistic Anthropology</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 14-19, 162-213.</p>
Sept 14 Foundations: Theories of Language and/as Culture/Action	<p>Boas, Franz 1964[1911] Introduction: A Handbook of North American Languages. In <i>Language in Culture and Society: A Reader in Linguistics and Anthropology</i>, Dell Hymes, ed. Harper and Row, 15-22.</p> <p>Malinowski, Bronislaw 1966 [1935] An Ethnographic Theory of Language. In <i>Coral Gardens and Their Magic</i>, Vol II. London: Allen</p>	<p>Duranti, Alessandro 2003 Language as Culture in U.S. Anthropology. <i>Current Anthropology</i> 44(3):323-347</p> <p>Sherzer, Joel 1987 A discourse-centered approach to language and culture. <i>American Anthropologist</i></p>

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	<p>and Unwin, 3-22</p> <p>Hymes, Dell 1962 The Ethnography of Speaking. In <i>Anthropology and Human Behaviour</i>, T. Gladwin and W. C. Sturtevant, eds. Washington, D. C.: Anthropology Society of Washington, 222-247.</p> <p>Austin, John L 2009[1962] How to Do Things With Words. In <i>The Discourse Reader</i>, 2nd edition, Adam Jaworski and Nicolas Coupland, eds. Malden, MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 55-65.</p> <p>Lévi-Strauss, Claude 1958 Structural analysis in linguistics and in anthropology. In <i>Language in Culture and Society</i>, Dell Hymes, ed. Harper and Row, 40-53. Also located at this website</p>	<p>89:295-309</p> <p>Rosaldo, Michelle Z 1982 The things we do with words: Ilongot speech acts and speech act theory in philosophy. <i>Language in Society</i> 11: 203-37</p>
<p>Sept 21</p> <p>Theories of the Sign and Representational Systems</p>	<p>Saussure, Ferdinand de Saussure 1959 <i>Course in General Linguistics</i>, Charles Bally and Albert Sechehaye, eds, Wade Baskin trans. New York: Philosophical Library, “The Object of Linguistics” (7-17), “Nature of the Linguistic Sign” (65-70), “Linguistic Value (111-122).</p> <p>Peirce, Charles Sanders 1955[1897-1910] Logic as Semiotic: The Theory of Signs. In <i>The Philosophical Writings of Peirce</i>, Justus Buchler ed. New York: Dover Publications, 98-115. See also this website</p> <p>Kockelman, Paul 2010 Semiotics. In <i>The Sage Handbook of Sociolinguistics</i>, Ruth Wodak, Barbara Johnstone and Paul Kerswill, eds. Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 165-178.</p> <p>Bowen, John R. 2012 <i>A New Anthropology of Islam</i>. Malden MA: Cambridge University Press, 50-58.</p>	<p>Ahearn, Laura M. 2017 <i>Living Language: An Introduction to Linguistic Anthropology</i>. 2nd Edition. Malden MA: Blackwell, 28-32.</p> <p>Hanks, William 1996 <i>Language and Communicative Practices</i>. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 21-54.</p>
<p>Sept 28</p> <p>Semiotic Riffs from Chicago: Grammatical Indexes</p>	<p>Silverstein, Michael 1976. Shifters, Linguistic Categories, and Cultural Description. In <i>Meaning and Anthropology</i>, Basso and Selby, eds. New York: Harper & Row, 11-54.</p> <p>Hanks, William 1992 The Indexical Ground of Deictic Reference. In <i>Rethinking Context: Language as an Interactive Phenomenon</i>, Alessandro Duranti and Charles Goodwin, eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 43-76.</p> <p>Graham, Laura 1995 <i>Performing Dreams: Discourses of Immortality Among the Xavante of Central Brazil</i>. Austin, TX:</p>	<p>Agha, Asif 2007 <i>Language and Social Relations</i>. New York: Cambridge University Press, 14-83.</p>

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	<p>University of Texas Press, 175-206. We are reading chapter six of her ethnography on the Xavante of Central Brazil. An introduction can be previewed on this website</p> <p>Kohn, Eduardo 2013 <i>How Forests Think: Toward an Anthropology Beyond the Human</i>. Berkeley: University of California Press, 27-67</p>	
<p>Oct 5</p> <p>Indexicality and Mediated Social Life: Identity, Affect, Selves</p>	<p>Bucholtz, Mary, and Kira Hall (2004). Language and Identity. In <i>A Companion to Linguistic Anthropology</i>, Alessandro Duranti (ed.). Oxford: Blackwell, 268-294.</p> <p>Peterson, Mark Allen 2011 <i>Connected in Cairo: Growing Up Cosmopolitan in the Modern Middle East</i>. Bloomington IN: Indiana University Press, 97-104. (<i>sakai</i>) We are reading chapter 4 of this book. An introduction can be found on this website.</p> <p>Urciuoli, Bonnie 2008. Skills and Selves in the New Workplace. <i>American Ethnologist</i>, 35(2): 211-228.</p> <p>Harkness, Nicholas 2015 The Pragmatics of Qualia in Practice. <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> 44:573-89</p>	<p>Gal, Susan 2013 Tastes of Talk: Qualia and the moral flavor of signs. <i>Anthropological Theory</i> 13(1/2): 31–48.</p> <p>Manning, Paul and Ilana Gershon 2013 Animating Interaction. <i>HAU: Journal of Ethnographic Theory</i> 3 (3): 107–37 (Open access online)</p>
<p>Oct 12</p> <p>Language Implications for Fieldwork</p>	<p>Goffman, Erving 1981 “Footing.” In E. Goffman, <i>Forms of Talk</i>. Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press, 124-157.</p> <p>Wortham, Stanton and Angela Reyes 2015 <i>Discourse Analysis Beyond the Speech Event</i>. New York: Routledge, 1-39.</p> <p>Briggs, Charles 1986 <i>Learning How to Ask: A sociolinguistic appraisal of the role of the interview in social science research</i>. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 39-60.</p> <p>Bucholtz, Mary 2000 The politics of transcription. <i>Journal of Pragmatics</i> 32:1439-1465</p>	<p>Ochs, Elinor. 1979. Transcription as Theory. In <i>Developmental pragmatics</i>, Elinor Ochs & Bambi Schieffelin, eds. New York: Academic Press, pp. 43-72.</p> <p>Goodwin, Charles and Marjorie Harness Goodwin 2006 Participation. In <i>A Companion to Linguistic Anthropology</i>, Alessandro Duranti, ed. Malden, MA: Blackwell Press, 222-244.</p> <p>Riley, Kathleen 2009 Who made the soup? Socializing the researcher and shaping her data. <i>Language & Communication</i> 29:254–270</p> <p>Hutchby, Ian and Robin Wooffitt. 2008. Data and Transcription. In <i>Conversation Analysis</i>. Cambridge: Polity Press, 69-87.</p>
<p>Oct 19</p> <p>Language,</p>	<p>Whorf, Benjamin 1941 The relation of habitual thought and behavior to language. Reprinted in <i>Language, Culture and Society</i>:</p>	<p>Cameron, Deborah 1999 Linguistic Relativity: Benjamin Whorf and the Return</p>

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<p>Culture, Thought</p> <p><i>Interview Paper Due</i></p>	<p><i>A Book of Readings</i>, Ben Blount, ed. Prospect Heights, IL: Waveland Press, 64-85.</p> <p>Lucy, John A. 1985 Whorf's view of the linguistic mediation of thought. In <i>Semiotic Mediation: Sociocultural and Psychological Perspectives</i>, Elizabeth Mertz and Richard J. Parmentier, eds. New York: Academic Press, pp. 73-97.</p> <p>Levinson, Stephen 1997 Language and Cognition: The Cognitive Consequences of Spatial Description in Guugu Yimithir. <i>Journal of Linguistic Anthropology</i> 7(1):98-131</p> <p>Mertz, Elizabeth 2007 <i>The Language of Law School: Learning to Think Like a Lawyer</i>. New York: Oxford University Press, 43-83.</p>	<p>of the Repressed. <i>Critical Quarterly</i> 41(2):153-156</p> <p>Silverstein, Michael 2000 Whorfianism and the Linguistic Imagination of Nationality. In <i>Regimes of Language: ideologies, politics, identities</i>, Paul Kroskrity, ed. Santa Fe NM: School of American Research Press, 85-138.</p> <p>Levinson, Stephen 2003 Language and Mind: Let's Get the Issues Straight! In <i>Language and Mind: Advanced in the Study of Language and Thought</i>, Dedre Gentner and Susan Goldin-Meadow, eds. Cambridge MA: MIT Press, 25-46.</p>
<p>Oct 26 Language Socialization and Change</p>	<p>Ochs, Elinor 1996 Linguistic resources for socializing humanity. In <i>Rethinking linguistic relativity</i>, John Gumperz and Stephen Levinson, eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, pp. 407-438.</p> <p>Mendoza-Denton, Norma 2008 <i>Homegirls: Language and Cultural Practice among Latina Youth Gangs</i>. Malden, MA: Blackwell Publishing.</p>	<p>Ochs, Elinor and Bambi B. Schieffelin 1984 "Language Acquisition and Socialization: Three Developmental Stories and Their Implications." In <i>Culture Theory: Essays on Mind, Self, and Emotion</i>. Richard A. Shweder and R.A. LeVine eds.. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 276-320.</p>
<p>November 2 Language and Power: The political economy of language</p>	<p>Bakhtin, Mikhael 1986[1952] Speech Genres. In <i>The Bakhtin Reader</i>, Pam Morris, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 50-61, 73-81.</p> <p>Bourdieu, Pierre 1991 <i>Language and Symbolic Power</i>. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 37-42, 67-89.</p> <p>Briggs, Charles 1997 Notes on a Confession: On the Construction of Gender, Sexuality, and Violence in an Infanticide Case. <i>Pragmatics</i> 7(4):519-546</p> <p>Urciuoli, Bonnie, and Chaise LaDousa. 2013 Language management/labor. <i>Annual Review of Anthropology</i> 42: 175-190.</p>	<p>Irvine, Judith 1989 When talk isn't cheap: Language and political economy. <i>American Ethnologist</i> 16(2):248-267.</p> <p>Hill, Jane 1985 The Grammar of Consciousness and the Consciousness of Grammar. <i>American Ethnologist</i> 12(4): 725-737</p> <p>Blommaert, Jan 2009 Language, Asylum, and the National Order. <i>Current Anthropology</i> (50)4:415-441</p> <p>Keane, Webb 2003 Semiotics and the social analysis of material things. <i>Language & Communication</i> 23:409-425</p>

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<p>Nov 9</p> <p>Language Ideologies: Keys to the study of inequality</p>	<p>Kroskrity, Paul 2010 Language Ideologies. In <i>Society and Language Use</i>, Jürgen Jaspers, Jef Verschueren, and Jan-Ola Östman, eds. Philadelphia, PA: John Benjamins, 192-211.</p> <p>Irvine, Judith and Susan Gal 2000 Language Ideology and Linguistic Differentiation. In <i>Regimes of Language: ideologies, politics, identities</i>, Paul Kroskrity, ed. Santa Fe NM: School of American Research Press, 35-84.</p> <p>Bauman, Richard and Charles L. Briggs 2003 <i>Voices of modernity: Language ideologies and the politics of inequality</i>. New York: Cambridge University Press, 1-18.</p> <p>Philips, Susan U. 2004 Language and Inequality. In <i>A Companion to Linguistic Anthropology</i>, Alessandro Duranti (ed.). Oxford: Blackwell. 474-495.</p>	<p>Silverstein, Michael 1985 Language and the Culture of Gender: At the Intersection of Structure, Usage and Ideology. In <i>Semiotic Mediation</i>, Elizabeth Mertz and Richard Parmentier, eds. Chicago: Academic Press, 220-259.</p> <p>Woolard, Kathryn 2000 Introduction: Language Ideology as a Field of Inquiry. In <i>Language Ideologies: Practice and Theory</i>, Bambi B. Schieffelin, Kathryn A. Woolard, Paul V. Kroskrity, eds. New York: Oxford University Press, 3-51.</p> <p>Kulick, Don 1998 Anger, Gender, Language Shift, and the Politics of Revelation in a Papua New Guinean Village. In <i>Language Ideologies: Practice and Theory</i>. Bambi B. Schieffelin, Kathryn A. Woolard, & P. V. Kroskrity eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 87-102.</p>
<p>Nov 16</p> <p>Language and Violence</p>	<p>Conley, Robin 2015 <i>Confronting the Death Penalty: How Language Influences Jurors in Capital Cases</i>. Oxford University Press.</p>	<p>Kockelman, Paul 2007 Agency: The Relation between Meaning, Power, and Knowledge. <i>Current Anthropology</i> 48(3): 379-400</p>
<p>November 21 (Tuesday before Thanksgiving is Thursday schedule)</p> <p>Language and Race</p> <p><i>Draft of Theoretical Application Paper</i></p>	<p>Hill, Jane 2008 <i>The Everyday Language of White Racism</i>. Malden MA: Wiley-Blackwell, 1-44, 119-157</p> <p>Rosa, Jonathan 2016 From Mock Spanish to Inverted English. In <i>Raciolinguistics</i>, H. Samy Alim, ed. New York: Oxford University Press, 65-80</p> <p>One other chapter in Alim, H. Samy ed. 2016 From Mock Spanish to Inverted English. In <i>Raciolinguistics</i>. New York: Oxford University Press.</p> <p>Smith, Andrea and Anna Eisenstein 2015 <i>Rebuilding Shattered Worlds: Creating Community by Voicing the Past</i>. Lincoln NB: University of Nebraska Press, 1-3, 63-87.</p> <p>Wirtz, K., 2011. Cuban performances of blackness as the timeless past still among us. <i>Journal of Linguistic Anthropology</i> 21(S1): E11-E34.</p>	

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November 30	AAA Annual Meeting No class—work on theoretical application papers	
Dec 7 Language and Social Movements	Urla, Jacqueline 2012 <i>Reclaiming Basque: Language, Nation and Cultural Activism</i> . Reno: University of Nevada Press.	Avineri, N., Johnson, E., Brice-Heath, S., McCarty, T., Ochs, E., Kremer-Sadlik, T., Blum, S., Zentella, A.C., Rosa, J., Flores, N. and Alim, H.S., 2015 Invited Forum: Bridging the “Language Gap”. <i>Journal of Linguistic Anthropology</i> 25(1):74-79.
Final Revised Theoretical Application Paper Due December 13		