



Seminar series
LANGUAGE, SOCIETY, AND ETHNOGRAPHY
SPRING 2017

LESOL welcomes you to its inaugural Tuesday evening Seminars, a Series entitled *Language, Society, and Ethnography* to be held in Spring 2017. The goal of the series is to forward the ongoing dialogue between contemporary sociolinguistics and the social sciences, with an emphasis on ethnographic approaches (within linguistics) and linguistically relevant research (within ethnography).

The program is as follows:

7 Μαρτίου	Birgül Yılmaz SOAS	"Why do I learn "my" language?" Languages and National Identities among Kurds in the UK
28 Μαρτίου	Βίλλυ Τσάκωνα ΔΠΘ	TBA
4 Απριλίου	Ειρήνη Κουνιαρέλλη ΤΚΑΙ	TBA
25 Απριλίου	Χασάν Καϊλή Ankara Üniversitesi	TBA
2 Μαΐου	Ελίζα Παναγιωτάτου ΤΚΑΙ	TBA
9 Μαΐου	Πέπη Μπέλλα ΕΚΠΑ	Γλωσσικές πράξεις στη διαγλώσσα των μαθητών της Ελληνικής ως Γ2
16 Μαΐου	Ρούλα Τσοκαλίδου ΑΠΘ	TBA
23 Μαΐου	Roswitha Kersten-Pejanić Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin	TBA

Our first seminar will take place on TUESDAY MARCH 7, at 21:00 in the Computer Room in Bineio.

BIRGÜL YILMAZ

SOAS, University of London

**"Why do I learn "my" language?"
Languages and National Identities among Kurds in the UK**

This presentation explores language practices of Kurmanji heritage language learners in two community based language classes in London. Many of the participants who were immigrants from four major parts of Kurdistan-Turkey, Syria, Iraq and Iran were multilingual (and either identified themselves with Kurmanji, Sorani and or spoke Arabic, Farsi and English). By audio recording classroom interactions as well as conducting in-depth interviews with 39 participants who were learning Kurmanji as “their” “mother tongue”, this paper argues that languages and national identities are negotiated with different degrees of sameness and difference as well as inferences of ambivalence. Identities in the context of this study, an institutional language learning setting in London, show that the dialectic relationship between self and the others is negotiated within the constraints of political past and the current conditions in the UK.