



The negotiated nature of language and identity

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It is well-established within sociolinguistics that the relationship between language and identity is complex, multi-layered, and continuously negotiated (e.g. LePage and Tabouret-Keller; Omoniyi, 2004). This workshop will seek to build on these concepts and will guide workshop participants through exploring identity negotiations in everyday interactions. It will use recorded conversations of multilingual families as its main lens to do so and will examine the multi-scalar way in which family members use language to index particular identities, from the macro-level (e.g. language as a marker of national identity) to the more micro-level (e.g. enacting the family roles, such as ‘parent’ or ‘child’; multilingualism as a component of family identity-making processes). Workshop participants are invited (but not required) to bring their own data to this workshop to explore how ‘acts of identity’ (LePage and Tabouret-Keller, 1985) may take various forms over space and time. Time will be allotted for small and large group discussions of some of the data that participants may wish to share.

References:

LePage, R. and Tabouret-Keller, A. (1985). *Acts of Identity: Creole-Based Approaches to Language and Ethnicity*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Omoniyi, T. (2004). *The Sociolinguistics of Borderlands: Two Nations, One Community*. Trenton, New Jersey: Africa World Press.