Vision

MIC at Stony Brook University will emerge as a leading international center for research on multilingual repertoires in the 21st century.

Mission

MIC is an interdisciplinary research center where applied linguists, linguists, anthropologists, psychologists, communication scholars, education specialists and scholars of allied disciplines explore multilingual repertoires as rich resources in the context of global mobility and technological advancement. It particularly promotes research on communicative repertoires involving languages and cultures of Asia. MIC aims to

- Generate knowledge on the impact of global mobility and technological innovation on language practices
- Conduct research on languages and lives of bilingual and multilingual speakers and speech communities
- Examine the communicative adaptations and transformations by individuals and groups as they transcend languages and cultures
- Build cross-cultural databases on multilingual development and intercultural communication
- Inform the public on the means and meanings of developing multilingual and multicultural repertoires
- Contribute to the visibility of Stony Brook as a leader in bilingualism/multilingualism and intercultural communication research and teaching

Organizational Structure

Administration
Director: Agnes He
Secretary: TBD
Graduate Assistant: TBD
Consulting Committee
Dr. Peggy Christoff (intercultural communication, Chinese)
Dr. Jiwon Hwang (Korean language and linguistics)
Dr. Eriko Sato (translation, Japanese)
Dr. Meena Sridhar (language education and maintenance, Hindi)
Dr. S. N. Sridhar (bilingualism/multilingualism, Indian languages)

Campus Advisory Board
Mark Aronoff, Linguistics-general
Susan Brennan, Psychology-discourse processes
Ellen Browselow, Linguistics-second language acquisition
Georges Fouron, Africana Studies-transnationalism
Charles Haddad, Journalism-communication, Asia
Sarah Jourdain, European Languages Literatures & Cultures-language education
Dorit Kaufmann, Linguistics-language education and attrition

To be invited--
Business (Manny London)
Engineering and Science (Yacov Shamash)
Humanities Institute (Ann Kaplan)
International Academic Programs (Bill Arens)
Medicine (Latha Chandran)

External Advisory Board (tentative, to be invited)
• Anvita Abbi, Director, Center for Linguistics, Jawaharlal Nehru University
• Xiaolan Curdt-Christiansen, National Institute of Education, Singapore
• Patsy Duff, Co-Director, Centre for Research in Chinese Language and Literacy, University of British Vancouver
• Ofelia Garcia, CUNY Graduate Center
• Nancy Hornberger, U Penn
• Olga Kagan, Director, National Heritage Language Resource Center, UCLA
• Elizabeth Lanza, Director, Center for Multilingualism in Society Across the Lifespan, University of Oslo
• LI Wei, Chair of Department of Applied Linguistics and Communication and Centre for Multilingual and Multicultural Research, University of London
• Elinor Ochs, Director, Center for Language, Interaction and Culture, UCLA
• Maria Polinsky, Harvard
• Bambi Schieffelin, New York University
• Terry Wiley, President, Center for Applied Linguistics, Washington DC
• Virginia Yip, Director, Childhood Bilingual Research Centre, Chinese University of Hong Kong

Activities

• Convene biennial summer (or spring) symposia
• Publish selected studies presented at the symposia (either as a new e-journal or special issues of existing journals)
• Sponsor distinguished lecture series
• Host visiting scholars and fellows
• Build and maintain a website with resources for researchers and the public
• Collaborate with other research centers with similar goals
• Establish an interdisciplinary graduate program in MIC
• Apply for grants and raise funds

Year 1
Set up Center office
Publicize the Center
Initiate Distinguished Lecture Series
Plan the 1st Biennial Summer (or Spring) Symposium on MIC
Coordinate campus, local, national, and global research networks in MIC areas
Develop website
Apply for grants and raise funds

Year 2
Convene the 1st Biennial Summer (or Spring) Symposium on MIC
Prepare publication of selected papers from the 1st MIC Symposium
Plan an interdisciplinary graduate program in MIC
Sponsor Distinguished Lecture Series
Website: resources for researchers and the public
Apply for grants and raise funds

Year 3
Plan the 2nd Biennial Summer (or Spring) Symposium on MIC
Propose an interdisciplinary graduate program in MIC
Sponsor Distinguished Lecture Series
Website: resources for researchers and the public
Collaborate with other research centers (exchange, cross-training, consortia etc.)
Apply for grants and raise funds

Some Sample Research Themes and Topics
Development of multilingual repertoires

- How does bilingual/multilingual competence evolve over time, across generations and geographies, across languages and lives?
- How do languages that have been learned early in life affect the acquisition and use of languages learned later, and vice versa?
- How do language competences interact in cognitive and social space?
- What are the variables that shape the dynamic, evolving linguistic landscape in multilingual households and communities?

Multimodal discourse and multilingual repertoires

- How are speech communities and ethnolinguistic groups presented and perceived in digital age?
- What are the consequences of multimodal (text, image, voice, sound) communication for expressing culture and re-presenting the self?
- How do bilingual/multilingual speakers apply their linguistic repertoires in different technological contexts, from face-to-face communication to digital media?

Multivalent identities and multilingual repertoires

- How do speakers manage self-projections and other-perceptions in the context of bilingual/multilingual practices?
- How do multilingual competences serve as resources for construction and expression of multicultural, global identities?
- What is the relationship between language choice, language use, and the construction of not only ethnic identity but other aspects of multivalent identities?

Conditions and constraints for multilingual practices

- What are the discursive/conversational strategies for enhanced intercultural communication?
- What are the best theories and practices in translation and interpretation?
- What significance does the spread of English have for the use and development of Asian languages?
- What are the challenges facing the maintenance of Asian heritage languages in the U.S. and globally?