

The Center for Multilingual & Intercultural Communication

The MIC Distinguished Lecture Series

Global Language and Local Identities

Friday, November 18, 2016, 10-11 am

Place: Javits 110

Identity is a concept that has been defined in many ways and scholars have built theories of identity to explain persons' and people's sense of the term. In this lecture, I compare and contrast theories developed in second language acquisition, social psychology, anthropology, and communication sciences and conclude that each is grounded on the particularity of a social context. To expand the particular contexts studied by identity theorists, I consider the varied responses of individuals and groups to the influence of a hegemonic language. Although contact by speakers of a local language with a hegemonic language is sometimes seen as endangering the local language and threatening speakers' identities, I reject that as a pessimistic oversimplification. I reviewed these studies of persons in contact with hegemonic languages: Uyghurs in China in contact with Han Chinese, Quichua musicians in contact with Spanish in Ecuador and the United States, and Advertising copywriters in Korea, bloggers in Malaysia, and a Singaporean poet in contact with World Englishes. They provide new insights into how local identities are contested and creatively constructed in contact with hegemonic languages.



Richard Young

Richard F. Young, M.A. (Oxford), M.A. (Reading), Ph.D. (Pennsylvania), is professor of English Linguistics at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he teaches courses in English Linguistics, Sociolinguistics, Pragmatics, and Research Methods. His research focuses on the relationship between language and social context and has resulted in four books *Discursive Practice in Language Learning and Teaching*, *Language and Interaction*, *Talking and Testing*, and *Variation in Interlanguage Morphology* and over 70 articles. In his current research project, he seeks to understand the influence of formative experiences of English language learning on the current practice of Chinese teachers of English in Wuhan, China.

Co-sponsored by the
Confucius Institute



**Stony Brook
University**

The Center for Multilingual & Intercultural Communication (MIC) is an interdisciplinary research center where applied linguists, linguists, 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.

stonybrook.edu/mic

