

Language in Its Settings (Workshop)
 31 May 2019
 Hamilton Hall 709
 Program in Linguistics, Columbia University

Language, as an activity of a community of people, is not uniform but differs depending on the setting in which it occurs. Settings include dichotomies such as urban vs. rural, center vs. periphery, spread vs. residual zones, contact with other communities, standards vs. dialect, and—not irrelevantly—time.

We propose here a workshop to discuss language and the effect of settings.

As plenary speakers, we have invited two scholars who have studied rich language situations that involve intense contact in urban situations. **Peter Kosta** (Potsdam) instituted and managed a multi-year research project with five German universities on diasporic bilingual speech in Petersburg and Berlin (so, Russians in Berlin and Germans in Petersburg). **Ross Perlin** (Endangered Language Alliance, New York) has planned a glorious course about immigrants to New York City investigating “how immigrants form communities in a new land, how those communities are integrated into the wider society, and how they grapple with linguistic and cultural loss” (to be offered at Columbia this coming fall, counts as “Global Core”).

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10:15	Welcome
A. Timberlake	Circum-baltic <i>lingua franca</i> : Language in the Hanse
Liam Archbold	French Influence on Jula (Mandé)
Krzysztof Borowski	Urban Origin and Status of <i>Slōnskō gōdka</i>
Kiran Aida, A. Timberlake	Mazowian Lexicon: Rural and Regional Towns
12:30–2:00	<i>lunch</i>
Chris Caes	Language of Peasant and <i>szlachta</i> (Eighteenth c.)
John McWhorter	Urban Language Contact and Germanic: Why Most Germanic Languages are More Like Dutch than Icelandic”
Peter Kosta	Urban Voices, Berlin and Petersburg
Ross Perlin	Stateless, Oral, Immigrant Cultures in New York
4:00–5:00	<i>discussion</i>

6:30	<i>dinner</i>
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