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Dean Parks Colloquium for 2010-2011

1 message

Announcement-Do Not Reply

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To: faculty@cnu.edu, employees@cnu.edu

Dear Faculty and Staff,

We are pleased to announce the Dean Parks Colloquium for 2010-2011. The theme this year is ***Language: Power, Prestige and Prejudice***. Our lineup covers a range of timely issues – The English Only movement; Dialects in the public schools; African American English; Struggles for linguistic rights in Europe; The role of silence on gender ambiguity in sports; and rhetoric surrounding the same-sex marriage debate.

Our first Dean Parks presentation is coming up soon – On Tuesday, October 5th, 7:30 p.m., James Crawford speaks on *Official English/English Only: Using Language as a Wedge*. Kick-off reception to follow. Each presentation will be approximately 75-80 minutes, including questions.

Please consider offering your students extra credit to attend these explorations of power, prestige and prejudice in contemporary society.

The flier for our first Dean Parks talk is attached. Feel free to reproduce and distribute among your faculty and students.

Rebecca Wheeler, Chair

Dean Parks Colloquium Series 2010-2011

FALL

Tuesday, October 5th (Ballroom): James Crawford (Institute for Language and Education Policy)

Official English/English Only: Using Language as a Wedge

Recognizing English as Americans' national language seems innocent on its face. Yet the implications for civil rights, free speech, education, and community relations could be severe. The campaign for "English Only" is not only a thinly veiled expression of intolerance toward immigrants; it also reflects ignorance about the nation's history and the interactions between language and identity.

Tuesday, October 26th (M&T Hall): Jeffrey Reaser (North Carolina State University)

Using Language to Illuminate History and Culture: Teaching about Dialects in the Public Schools

For over 100 years, national education groups have called for American schools to teach about dialects and language varieties. Yet, although such programs would greatly improve students' spoken and written English, schools shy away from exploring dialect diversity. Why the reluctance? Originating in myths about language and education, resistance to studying dialects reveals an underlying intolerance of social, economic, and ethnic diversity.

Monday, November 15th (M & T Hall): Renee Blake (New York University)

We real cool: The Word from Word -- The Online Journal of African American English.

What *is* African American English (AAE)? Is AAE slang? Do white people speak AAE? How do IQ tests discriminate against Black children? Why would the Drug

Enforcement Agency hire translators for Ebonics? What is the role of AAE in the Black/White achievement gap? This talk explores myths and realities about African American English, an authentic language variety spoken by many, but not all and not only African Americans.

SPRING:

Thursday, February 10th (M& T Hall): Kai Heidemann (CNU)

In the Name of Language: The Struggle for Linguistic Rights in France and the 'New' Europe

Are 'dying' languages worth fighting for? In Europe a wave of minority language activism has prompted intense transnational debate over the issue of linguistic rights. A closer look at the struggles and successes of language activists in France reveals a remarkable story about how and why people will fight in the name of language.

Monday, March 14th (M&T Hall): John Sloop (Vanderbilt University)

Silence's Gender: Caster Semenya, and the Rhetorical Limits of Ambiguity

In 2009, controversy erupted when tests were run to determine the gender of Caster Semenya, a South African runner. Remaining silent on the results, the IAAF allowed her to compete again in 2010. The world wondered, "Is Semenya male or female? In what race should she compete?" Conflicting assumptions about gender filled international discourse. Is gender fixed in the body or fluid? How did silence about her gender translate into a statement about her gender? Each side claimed they were right. How can that be?

Wednesday, March 30th (Ballroom): Dana Cloud (University of Texas, Austin)

By the Power Vested in the Rhetoric of Rights: Gay Equality vs. Queer

Liberation in the Debate Over Marriage

The right to marry is at the center of the contemporary LGBTQ movement. But community members who identify as "queer" have challenged this demand as "heteronormative" and ultimately conservative. Who is right? This lecture describes the language and rhetoric of these debates and asks the question: How far can the call for equal rights truly challenge the existing order?



JamesCrawford.jpg
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