



WIENER SPRACHGESELLSCHAFT



Die Wiener Sprachgesellschaft lädt ein
zu einem Vortrag
von

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*Ethnographic research on language practices and linguistic
categorization in Montreal: Challenging established
research methods and the discourse of threat*

Language policy in Quebec/Canada, as in many other contexts, has long been anchored in assumptions as to what constitutes an ethnolinguistic group, which in turn are founded on an understanding of language and language speakers as clearly delimited, bounded entities, that can easily be identified and measured (Heller, 2007). These assumptions are treated as “facts” and were elaborated in earlier contexts (the 60s and 70s) and framed by national tensions and issues currently challenged by a rapidly shifting demographic.

In Canada (and Quebec), a fairly long tradition of collaboration between researchers and policy makers exists and demographers, political scientists, and social psychologists have played key roles in census taking and large studies of language issues. Ethnographers and linguistic anthropologists, however, have only fairly recently joined in these discussions. In this presentation, it will be addressed how research from a linguistic anthropology perspective brings more complex understandings of language and language speakers to the traditional framing of language politics and policy in Quebec. Profoundly disruptive in many ways and sometimes met with considerable resistance, the contribution of critical linguistic anthropology to the debate on language has the potential to open doors to new ways of moving forward in studying language in Canada and to designing policy for the 21st century.

This presentation will draw on different studies undertaken in Montreal with young plurilingual adults of immigrant background and with young « *francophones de souche* ». The focus will be on how categories originally created by researchers for the use of measurement have become labels for identity and the categorization of others, and how discourse on language within political projects have become stakes in everyday interactions.

Zeit: Dienstag, 4. Dezember 2018, 18 Uhr 30

Ort: Sensengasse 3a, Hörsaal 1 (1. Stock)

B. Seidlhofer m. p.

Mi-Cha Flubacher m. p.