

International Linguistic Association

Monthly Lecture Series

Co-sponsored by BMCC

Eve Haque

York University

City University of New York

Graduate Center

White Settler Colonialism, Integration and Language

In June 2019, Canada passed its first ever Indigenous Languages Act (ILA). 2019 has also been designated the International Year of Indigenous Languages by the UN and marks 50 years since the passage of the Official Languages Act of Canada in 1969 to make English and French the official languages of Canada. Although the passing of the Indigenous Languages Act is a significant moment in language policy development around Indigenous languages in Canada, it still does not give the same status as 'official' that the settler colonial languages of English and French continue to enjoy. Although there is a long history of pressure by Indigenous communities for state recognition and support for Indigenous languages, in this presentation, I want to, first, focus on the background debates that led to the passage of the ILA, particularly the arguments put forward by First Nations, Metis and Inuit communities. Second, I will compare the current status of rights accorded to the official languages of English and French to that of Indigenous languages in Canada. Ultimately, I want to suggest that the development and passing of the ILA can give some insight into the possibilities and limitations of language policy and planning processes in general.

Saturday, November 2, 2019

11 AM - 12 PM

Borough of Manhattan Community College

Room: S135

199 Chambers Street (at West Street), New York, NY 10007

NOTE: All attendees will be asked to show some form of ID in order to enter the college.

Attendees are invited to join the speaker for lunch at a nearby restaurant afterward
(at their own expense).

There will be a meeting of the ILA's Executive Board from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the same day.

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