



UNIVERSITÀ
DEGLI STUDI
DI BERGAMO

Dipartimento
d' lingue, etterature
e Culture Straniere

Conferenze

Prof. Jillian Cavanaugh

CUNY Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center

"Introduction to Indexicality"

28 febbraio 2023, Aula 9 Pignolo, h 14-16

∞ ∞ ∞

"Language Ideologies in action"

2 marzo 2023, **Aula 2 Tassis**, h 13-16

∞ ∞ ∞

**"Cultural values in language and food in the
bergamasca"**

2 marzo 2023, **Aula 2 Tassis**, h 16-18

∞ ∞ ∞

Link Meet alle tre conferenze: <https://meet.google.com/tnk-spxd-miu>

Organizzazione:
roberta.grassi@unibg.it



Abstracts

Introduction to Indexicality

The semiotics of Charles Saunders Peirce has become important to the analysis of meaning-making processes, from translation to everyday conversation. The concept of indexicality—whereby meaning is constructed through contingency or causality—has been particularly productive for understanding how meaning is achieved within and across particular contexts. This lecture presents indexicality as a tool for analysis for anyone interested approaching linguistic meanings as contextually anchored and constructed, maintained, and always open to change.

Language Ideologies in action

Language ideologies are speakers' ideas, values, and beliefs about language, their own and others'. They take shape both explicitly, through speakers' statements about language (what it is and does), and implicitly, through speakers' use of language (code choices and code switches, accents, interruptions, etc.). As such, language ideologies are enactments of collective orders, both reflecting social structures and hierarchies, but also helping to form and sustain them, as well as having the potential to disrupt and transform them. Language ideologies shape all types of language use, including in the classroom, where students and teachers may share or hold conflicting language ideologies. Dominant language ideologies (language ideologies held by and reinforcing the position of those in power), such as those that naturalize Standard Languages, may be particularly powerful in teaching contexts, and help to uphold structural inequalities and hinder equal participation.

Cultural values of language and food in the bergamasca

Jillian Cavanaugh's linguistic anthropological and ethnographic research in the town and province of Bergamo (since 1999) has been organized into 2 main projects, the first centered on language shift and language ideologies, and the second on heritage food production and cultural values. Both projects have focused on the role and meaning of language—especially Bergamasco and Italian—across contexts of use, as well as the value of the past in contemporary life. Through an overview of both projects, this seminar will afford the opportunity to engage in scholarly conversation and collaboration around enduring questions of cultural and linguistic heritage, everyday linguistic and cultural practices, and the ways in which the past is made relevant in the present in Bergamo.



Jillian Cavanaugh teaches linguistic and cultural anthropology at Brooklyn College and the Graduate Center CUNY in New York City. She received her Ph.D. in anthropology from New York University. She has done ethnographic and linguistic anthropological research in Bergamo, Italy, focusing on language shift, language ideologies, language and gender, heritage food, and social change. She is professor of anthropology.