

### OSUCHiLL

### Abstracts of Keynote Presentations



#### **Shedding light on Voices from the margins: The making of a sociolinguistic documentary**

*Ana M. Carvalho, The University of Arizona*

Since Pedro Rona's seminal work on Uruguayan Portuguese in 1965, several researchers have investigated the linguistic aspects of this variety spoken by a large part of the population in northern Uruguay. However, native speakers of Uruguayan Portuguese continue to face linguistic discrimination both within their communities and beyond, relegating their voices to the margins in a diglossic context. To challenge this exclusion and celebrate linguistic diversity, I created *Voices from the Margins*, a sociolinguistic documentary featuring first-person narratives from Uruguayan Portuguese speakers about their language experiences.

In this presentation, I will share my experience in developing the project, covering key stages such as conception, pre-production, footage collection, and post-production. Additionally, I will argue that these documentaries can play a pivotal role in reshaping perceptions of minoritized dialects by illustrating how speakers embrace, resist, and challenge the dominant linguistic ideologies that sustain the marginalization of minority languages.

#### **Labovian lessons: rhotics and rabbits**

*Mary E. Beaton, Denison University*

Bill Labov died at the age of 97 this past December. His 1966 dissertation on New York City coda rhotics was paradigm changing – variation, which had before been dismissed as irrelevant, turned out to be patterned. Furthermore, his quantitative methodology made it possible to chart language change in real time in a way that the armchair “can I say this?” approach could not.

With Labov in mind, I'll present my first-wave work on coda rhotic variation in the very different context of the Spanish of a bilingual community in Lorain, Ohio, a small town with a big Puerto Rican population. We'll explore the conditioning of change and the potential for prescriptive norms, convergence with English, contact with Mexican Spanish, and language-internal forces to influence rhotics in Lorain Puerto Rican Spanish. I'll conclude with a discussion of the importance of rabbits, but you have to come to the talk to learn what these cute fuzzy creatures have to do with linguistics.

#### **Me deu um puta de um susto: Taboos in language variation**

*Chad Howe, University of Georgia*

In this talk, I discuss the role of taboo words—often ignored due to “scholarly squeamishness” (Burrige & Benczes 2019:198)—in language variation and change, focusing specifically on the case of *puta de* and similar expressions in Portuguese. The presentation surveys the notion of taboo language, arguing that they should be understood as offering speakers enhanced (or ‘extravagant’ following Haspelmath 1999) ways of drawing hearers’ attention. The data analyzed are collected from two corpora: Portuguese Web 2023 (ptTenTen, Kilgarriff et al. 2017) and the Corpus do Português (Davies and Ferreira). I argue that these affective expressions, akin to other linguistic structures (e.g., *bué da preocupado* in Angolan Portuguese, Lívio & Howe 2024), serve as a locus for both semantic and structural innovation and are often at odds with “regular” patterns of linguistic change (Burrige & Benczes 2019:198)



# OSUCHiLL SPECIAL PANEL SESSIONS

Friday, March 21st  
1:15-3:15

## Methods in Hispanic and Lusophone Corpus Linguistics (HH) *Dr. Mark Hoff, Queens College, The City University of New York* *Dr. Kendra Dickinson, Rutgers University*

Corpus linguistics is a research method that focuses on analyzing extensive collections of real-world language data. This workshop focuses on using corpus linguistic tools to study Spanish and Portuguese, with a focus on the Sketch Engine family of online corpora. By analyzing real-world language variation in large-scale, authentic data sets, the workshop equips participants with research-driven tools to enhance linguistic research and language teaching.

In this session, we will introduce participants to a variety of large-scale corpora in the two languages and provide them with the necessary tools to utilize said corpora for their own research and pedagogy. While the workshop focuses on foundational training, it equips attendees with the knowledge needed to apply corpus-based approaches in their future teaching, research, and curriculum development. By equipping participants with these tools, the workshop supports the development of innovative scholarship and teaching practices related to Spanish, Portuguese, and Latin America.

Saturday, March 22nd  
1:15-2:15

## Língua portuguesa em perspectiva funcional-construcional: análise de dois esquemas (HH 255)

*Dr. Ivo da Costa do Rosário, Universidade Federal Fluminense*  
*Dr. Mariangela Rios de Oliveira, Universidade Federal Fluminense*

A partir de fundamentos teórico-metodológicos do Funcionalismo, aliados à abordagem construcional da gramática (Traugott, Trousdale 2013; Hilpert, 2014; Rosário, 2022), descrevemos e analisamos dois esquemas do português contemporâneo do Brasil. Esses esquemas atestam a gradiência linguística, nos termos de Bybee (2010), e são motivados por pressões de natureza pragmático-discursiva, cognitiva e estrutural. O primeiro esquema é codificado pela rede [p(a)ra lá de X], com função intensificadora; a depender do preenchimento do slot X, a intensidade pode ser de circunstância adverbial ou de grau. O segundo esquema é codificado pela rede [X de]connect, responsável pela ligação de orações não finitas, veiculadoras de diferentes matizes semânticos, como modo, causa, finalidade etc.



## OSUCHiLL 2025 ZOOM INFORMATION

Please refer to the conference program for the room number of each session



OU Senate Chamber  
HH 180



HH 206



HH 251



HH 255

