

The University of New Mexico



Department of Linguistics

is pleased to present

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Aspects of the Theory of Native American Linguistics

Despite increased focus on Native American language community needs and values in the discipline of Linguistics, an ongoing frustration experienced by Native American scholars and community members occurs when linguists draw from colonial assumptions and categories in research, teaching, and service (see Errington 2008; Hermes et al. 2012; Leonard 2017, 2018; Mellow 2015). For example, prototypical linguistic analysis often isolates, fragments, and dissects language in ways that can be alienating to Native American community members for whom language is conceived of relationally, not as a structural or cognitive object that can or should be thought of separately from culture or peoplehood. Using Native American needs and views of language as a baseline, I offer “Native American Linguistics” as a framework of doing linguistics that privileges Native American needs and intellectual traditions by centering Native American community perspectives, such as Miami language teacher Jarrid Baldwin’s assertion that language is “how a community connects to each other and how they express ... themselves and their culture to each other.” In this talk, I will outline key tenets of this approach, focusing on how it can promote scientific advancement while also addressing contemporary calls for social justice in linguistics research and education.

Friday, February 12th, 2021

12:00 PM

Zoom Meeting: <https://unm.zoom.us/j/98471054182>

Password: LEONARD



Interpreter provided upon request