

Mirima Linguistic Forum

Wednesday, 18 June 2014

Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring Language and Culture Centre (MDWg) would like to announce its 9th Linguistic Forum to take place on Wednesday, 18 June, starting at 3pm. The forum will be held at Mirima Language Centre, Kununurra.

The following presentations are scheduled:

Presentation 1: 3-4pm

Empowering Indigenous Languages and Traditional Cultural Expressions
by Prof. Ghil'ad Zuckermann, Adelaide University

This lecture will analyse the ethical, aesthetic and economic benefits of language revival, and propose the establishment of 'Revivalistics', a new trans-disciplinary field of enquiry. Revivalistics inter alia includes Revival Linguistics, which studies systematically the universal constraints and local peculiarities apparent in linguistic and cultural revitalizations across various sociological backgrounds. With coca-colonization and homogenization there will be more and more groups added to the forlorn club of the lost-heritage peoples. Language reclamation will become increasingly relevant as people seek to recover their cultural autonomy, empower their spiritual and intellectual sovereignty, and improve their wellbeing and mental health. There is an urgent need to offer perspicacious comparative insights, for example from the Hebrew revival, which is so far the most successful known linguistic reclamation. Given capricious governmental policies, the lecture will propose (1) 'Native Tongue Title', legal compensation (for linguistic activities) for Aboriginal peoples who lost their tongue due to linguicide (language killing), and (2) making Indigenous tongues the official languages of their region, inter alia resulting in bilingual signs.

Presentation 2: 4-4:30pm

Empowering Indigenous Culture in China
by Dr. Li Ya, Adelaide University

A case study on **Heritage Revival of Tibetan in Mainland China, how to preserve Indigenous Culture and Stimulating Local Initiatives.**

Please have a look at the presenters' biographies on the following page.

The Mirima Linguistic Forum is an initiative by MDWg to bring together people with an academic interest in Indigenous studies. While our focus is on language and culture, ideally with a reference to local Indigenous matters, we welcome contributions on related topics. Presentations occur in an informal and relaxed atmosphere and we leave plenty of time for discussion and exchange. The forum is open to all; if you happen to be in the Kununurra area and would like to present on a topic of interest - please let us know: info@mirima.org.au.

Our presenters

PROF. GHIL'AD ZUCKERMANN (DPhil, Oxford; PhD, Cambridge, titular; MA Tel Aviv, *summa cum laude*) is Chair of Linguistics and Endangered Languages at the University of Adelaide. He is also Visiting Professor at the Pilpel Genomics Lab of the Molecular Genetics Department at the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel, as well as Oriental Scholar and Distinguished Visiting Professor at Shanghai International Studies University, China.

He is the author of the revolutionary bestseller *Israelit Safa Yafa* (Israeli - A Beautiful Language; Am Oved, 2008), *Language Contact and Lexical Enrichment in Israeli Hebrew* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2003), three chapters of the *Israeli Tingo* (Keren, 2011).

He is the editor of *Burning Issues in Afro-Asiatic Linguistics* (2012) and *Jewish Language Contact* (2014), a special issue of the *International Journal of the Sociology of Language*.

He is currently establishing 'Revivalistics', a new trans-disciplinary field of enquiry, and has launched, with the *Barnjarla* Aboriginal communities of Port Lincoln, Whyalla and Port Augusta the reclamation of the *Barnjarla* language of Eyre Peninsula, South Australia.

Professor Zuckermann is President of AUSTRALEX and elected member of AIATSI and the Foundation for Endangered Languages.

He was an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Fellow in 2007-2011 and Gulbenkian Research Fellow at Churchill College, Cambridge in 2000-2004.

He has taught *inter alia* at the University of Queensland, University of Cambridge and National University of Singapore, and has been a Research Fellow at the Rockefeller Foundation's Study and Conference Center, Villa Serbelloni, Bellagio, Italy; Israel Institute for Advanced Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem; Research Centre for Linguistic Typology (RCLT), Institute for Advanced Study, La Trobe University; Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas at Austin; and Kokuritsu Kokugo Kenkyūjo, National Institute for Japanese Language and Linguistics, Tokyo.

Dr Lǐ Yá is Postdoctoral fellow of Revival Linguistics in University of Adelaide.

She is awardee of Australian Endeavour Cheung Kong Research Award and Chinese Scholarship Council.

Normally, she is a lecturer of multi-cultural education in Sichuan Normal University, as well as she is researcher in the Key Multicultural Research Center of Sichuan Province.

She completed and has been awarded a doctorate at the National Research Institute for Educational and Psychology of Southwestern Ethnic Groups. Her research field covered Oral language and Oral education of particular indigenous Tibetan groups in the southwest of China.

In past 5 years, she published a series of academic papers which concern several different aspects of ethnic education in China, including:

- The Dilemma in Oral Culture Inheriting of Minority Group in China
- The Construction of Learning-oriented community in the southwest ethnic region etc.

She undertook a variety of programs which are relevant to ethnic culture and education in China, including :

- 2012 State Grant of Social Science Research Project: 'Construction of Curriculum System with local knowledge for Bilingual Education in Sichuan Tibetan Settlements',
- 2011 State Grant of Teacher Education Research Project: 'The Teacher Training Model of Bilingual Education in Tibet.
- 2010 State Grant of Multi-culture Research Project: 'Implement on Tibetan oral culture be resources in school education'.