

Sociolinguistics and Linguistic Anthropology: Renewing the Connections

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This workshop examines the relationship between sociolinguistics and one of its closest intellectual relatives, linguistic anthropology. Although a sharp distinction between these fields is untenable given significant theoretical and methodological common ground, for historical reasons they have become institutionally divided, with a concomitant divergence in their premises, tools, and goals. The need to reexamine connections between the two fields has recently become apparent, due to changes in both that have led to reinvigorated interaction. The workshop assesses the current state of relations between sociolinguistics and linguistic anthropology and identifies a number of trends in both fields that serve to reestablish a productive dialogue between these two closely overlapping fields. Among the trends that will be considered are the use of ethnographic methods of data collection and analysis, the combination of qualitative and quantitative approaches, reflexivity concerning the role of the researcher, and an engagement with political issues regarding the rights of linguistic minorities.