

The use of language variation in the study of language contact situations

Miriam Meyerhoff

University of Auckland

Contact between speakers of different dialects or different languages is a fact of life throughout the world. Relatively little work to date has focused on contact in the Asia-Pacific region, whether in urban or ex-urban contexts. In this workshop, we will:

- identify key questions in language/dialect
- discuss practical issues associated with studying language/dialect contact, including those that are particular to the Asia-Pacific region;
- explore the potential offered by the study of linguistic variation in studying language/dialect contact;
- identify connections between a variationist perspective on contact and other fields of research (e.g. bilingualism, formal linguistics, language evolution/change, typology) according to the group members' backgrounds.