



Cultural & Linguistic Diversity Conference: Living & Working Together

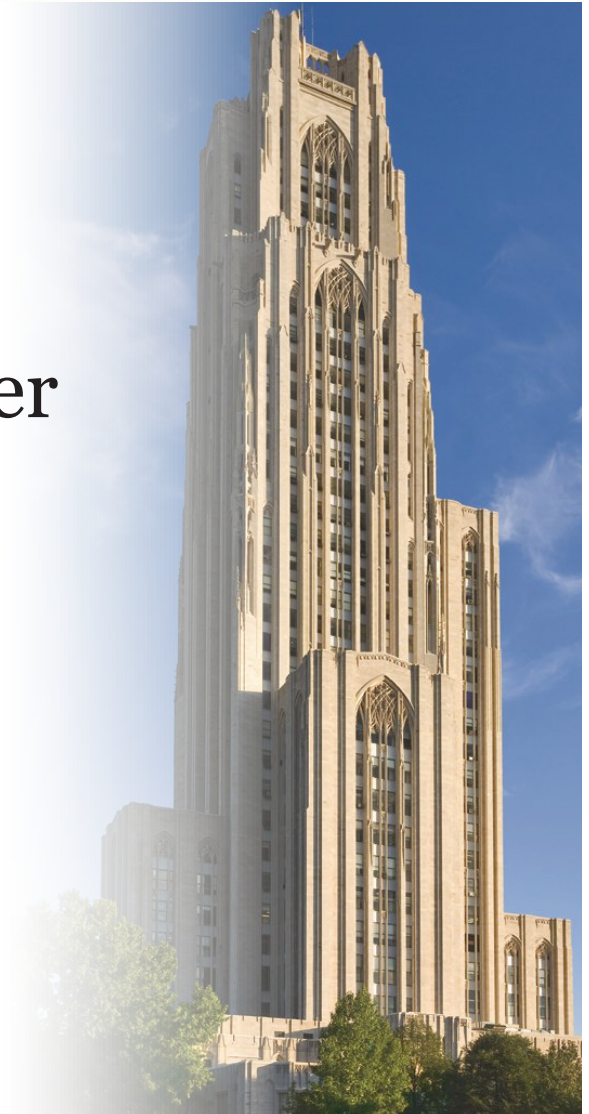
March 29, 2017

The University Club
Ball Room A

Organizing Committee: Abdesalam Soudi, PhD (Conference Chair); Jeannette South-Paul, MD (Conference Co-Chair), Shelome Gooden, PhD; Judy Chang, MD, MPH; Scott Kiesling, PhD

Hosted by: Departments of Linguistics; Family Medicine; Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Services

E-mail: hinh@pitt.edu | <http://www.linguistics.pitt.edu/culturalandlinguisticdiversity/>



Welcome,

We are pleased to introduce this multidisciplinary conference to celebrate the University of Pittsburgh Year of Diversity. The theme of the conference is “Living and Working Together”. We are focusing on cultural and linguistic diversity because we believe such variety broadens perspectives, enhances trust and communication, and is vital to an informed and engaged society.

Language serves as a spoken expression of culture, and in turn, influences our thinking process and our own philosophy. Traits like accent, word choice, identity, race, ethnicity, and conversational style interact as we interpret language meaning. Variations in language use, different ways of saying the same thing, underlie human attitudes to language and engagement with others and may lead to miscommunication in the work place and elsewhere.

Culture reflects many characteristics including religion, language, race, ethnicity, nationality, family, age, and gender; it is revealed in behavior, social norms, assumptions, values, and more. It has long been compared to an iceberg: what is visible is both supported and dwarfed by that which is unseen. Those invisible, but essential, elements are significant and shape who we are. Allowing room and time to learn about these hidden aspects of our identities may lead to better rapport and increased cultural sensitivity.

We start this event with a keynote presentation by Dr. Valerie Kinloch about cultural and linguistic diversity. Thereafter, two panels will discuss how they approach and embrace cultural and linguistic diversity in their work and life. Broadly speaking, diversity may mean different things to different people. So, in preparation for this event, we have also interviewed several people at Pitt about: (1) what diversity means to them, (2) the value of diversity in their life and work, and (3) their opinion about the most effective way to support diversity.

Today, we would like to prompt all participants to share their views about the connections between language and culture. We will summarize those ideas and discuss various ways for raising awareness and developing appreciation for cultural and linguistic variation. There are blank posters by registration, and we invite you to write on them to communicate what diversity means to you.

Lastly, we would like to take a moment to thank everyone who made this conference possible. Many people put a lot of time and effort into planning it from the first conception of the idea to the final product today:

Our sponsors, including the Provost (through the Year of Diversity award), the UPMC Health Plan, the UPMC Center for Engagement and Inclusion, and the University Honors College, have allowed us to organize this conference and offer it at no cost to you. We also would like to acknowledge our University of Pittsburgh hosting departments: Linguistics; Family Medicine; Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Services.

Additionally, we thank the Year of Diversity Committee, and Pitt staff, faculty, and students who participated in our video-based interviews and shared their time with us to provide their perspective on diversity. Furthermore, the following people helped bring all the pieces together: John Guinane (Media Producer, University Center for Teaching and Learning), Ken Hale (Hizwerks Productions, art and design), Amanda Gilman (Communications Manager, Kenneth Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences), LaShanda T Lemmon (Conference Web Support), and Allison Thompson (Conference Administrator).

I personally must also recognize my colleagues in linguistics and medicine for supporting me in designing this project. I could not have worked on anything better or more rewarding during these hard times in our country.

And to all of you, we would like to say thank you for your interest in this topic and for sharing your time with us today. We look forward to your feedback and we appreciate you all for being here to discuss and share your perspective on this very important topic

Abdesalam Soudi, PhD,
and the Conference Organizing Committee

*** Some segments from today's event will be videotaped and photographed. If you do not wish to be videotaped or photographed, please speak with someone from the Conference Organizing Committee.

SCHEDULE (8:00 AM to 3:00 PM)

- 8:00 - 9:00** **Registration Open (Ballroom A)**
Networking Breakfast
- 9:00- 9:10** **Conference layout and overview**
Abdesalam Soudi, PhD, Conference Chair
Jeannette South-Paul, MD, Conference Co-Chair
- 9:10 - 9:20** **Welcome from the University of Pittsburgh**
Pamela W. Connelly, Vice Chancellor for Diversity and Inclusion
Bettye J. and Ralph E. Bailey Dean, John Cooper, PhD, The Kenneth P. Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences
- 9:20- 9:25** **UPMC Remarks (Executive Sponsor)**
UPMC Health Plan
John Lovelace
President, UPMC for You
President, Government Programs & Individual Advantage
Chief Program Officer, Community Care Behavioral Health Organization
- UPMC Center for Engagement and Inclusion**
Represented by Jeannette South-Paul, MD
Andrew W. Mathieson UPMC Professor and Chair
- 9:30-10:30** **Keynote speech**
Valerie Kinloch, PhD
Associate Dean, Diversity, Inclusion, & Community Engagement,
College of Education & Human Ecology, OSU
Incoming Renée and Richard Goldman Dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Education
- Keynote Speaker Introduction: Shelome Gooden, PhD**
- 10:30 -10:45** **Question and Answer**
10:45-11:00 **Morning Snack (Ballroom A)**
- 11:00-12:30** **PANEL I: How do you approach cultural & linguistic diversity in your work?**
Moderator: Jeannette South-Paul, MD
- PANELISTS:**
Laura Brown, PhD, Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh
Amanda Godley, PhD, Education, University of Pittsburgh
Alan Juffs, PhD, English Language Institute (ELI), University of Pittsburgh
Bill Markle, MD, Family Medicine, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine

12:30-1:30 Lunch in Ballroom A
University Honors College Welcome (Conference Corporate Sponsor)
Dean Edward Stricker

1:30- 3:00 PANEL II: Embracing Cultural and Linguistic Diversity

Moderator: Abdesalam Soudi, PhD

PANELISTS

Mario C. Browne, MPH, CHES, Pitt Health Sciences Diversity
Cammie Chaumont Menendez, PhD, Center for Disease Control (CDC)
Elizabeth Kois, LMS, Penfield High School, Penfield, NY
Belkys Torres, PhD, International Programs, UCIS, University of Pittsburgh

Conference Closing

Conference Organizing Committee

Abdesalam Soudi, PhD, Conference Chair
Jeannette South-Paul, MD, Conference Co-Chair
Shelome Gooden, PhD Judy Chang, MD MPH
Scott Kiesling, PhD
Allison Thompson, Conference Administrator
LaShanda Lemmon-Mangham, Conference Website Support

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Department of Linguistics
Department of Family Medicine
Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, & Reproductive Services, Magee Women's Hospital

Keynote Speaker:
Valerie Kinloch, PhD

Associate Dean, Diversity,
Inclusion, & Community Engagement,
College of Education & Human Ecology, OSU
Incoming Renée and Richard Goldman Dean of the University of Pittsburgh School of Education



Valerie Kinloch is currently Professor of Literacy Studies in the Department of Teaching and Learning and Associate Dean of Diversity, Inclusion, and Community Engagement in the College of Education and Human Ecology at Ohio State University. She is the incoming Renee and Richard Goldman Dean of the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh. Her scholarship examines the literacies and community engagements of youth and adults inside and outside schools. Author

of publications on race, place, and literacy, her books include: *Still Seeking an Attitude: Critical Reflections on the Work of June Jordan* (2004), *June Jordan: Her Life and Letters* (2006), *Harlem On Our Minds: Place, Race, and the Literacies of Urban Youth* (2010), *Urban Literacies: Critical Perspectives on Language, Learning, and Community* (2011), *Crossing Boundaries: Teaching and Learning with Urban Youth* (2012), and *Service-Learning in Literacy Education: Possibilities for Teaching and Learning* (2015). In 2012, her book, *Harlem On Our Minds*, received the Outstanding Book of the Year Award from the American Educational Research Association, and in 2014, her book titled, *Crossing Boundaries: Teaching and Learning with Urban Youth*, was a staff pick for professional development by the Teaching Tolerance Education Magazine.

Additionally, Valerie is the recipient of the 2010 AERA Scholars of Color Early Career Award and the 2015 University Distinguished Diversity Award from Ohio State. In 2015, Valerie received the Rewey Belle Inglis Award for Outstanding Women in English Education from the National Council of Teachers of English, and in 2016, she was honored with the Distinguished Faculty Advising Award from the Council of Graduate Students at Ohio State. She has received grants from the Spencer Foundation, National Council of Teachers of English, Corporation for National and Community Service, and the Battelle Endowment for Technology. With colleagues, she participated in a Fulbright-Hayes project to Sierra Leone, West Africa to examine connections among language, culture, and history in Sierra Leone and the U.S. Gullah Islands. Currently, she is completing two book projects on literacy, justice, race, and community engagement, and she is cultivating educational partnerships in Australia and Jamaica.

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