

International Linguistic Association

Monthly Lecture Series

Dr. K. David Harrison

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Revitalizing Endangered Languages

The world's 7,000+ languages are in drastic decline, and most are predicted to vanish before they will be recorded or documented. Dr. Harrison argues that language extinction leads to intellectual impoverishment in all fields of science and culture. Entire bodies of unwritten knowledge that have sustained us on this planet are eroding. Concerted efforts to sustain, value and revitalize our linguistic diversity are now underway in indigenous communities worldwide, and may help to reverse the process. This presentation features photos and video clips of speakers of some of the world's most endangered languages, from Siberia, India, the USA and other locations, and will demonstrate how indigenous activists and linguists are working to sustain languages through technology and art.

Dr. Harrison is a linguist and specialist in language endangerment, and a National Geographic Explorer. He has done extensive fieldwork in Siberia, India, Mongolia, Vanuatu and other locations. As director of National Geographic's "Enduring Voices Project" he leads scientific expeditions to remote communities to document their languages and assist in language revitalization.

Saturday, December 1, 2018 11 AM - 12 PM
Hunter College, West Building, 904 Lexington Avenue, Room 424
New York, NY 10065

Directions

The West Building of Hunter College is on the south west corner of Lexington Avenue and 68th Street, right by the Number 6 subway station. Enter the building by the revolving doors on 68th Street and register with the security guards, whose desk is to the left of the doors. Then take the escalator up to the fourth floor. At the top, you will see a sign to your left pointing along a corridor to room 424. The room is on the right hand side of the corridor.

There will be a meeting of the ILA's Executive Board from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. on the same day in room 1222 of the West Building.

NOTE: All attendees will be asked to show some form of ID in order to enter the college.