

# International Linguistic Association

## *Monthly Lecture Series*

*Co-sponsored by BMCC*

**José del Valle**

**The Graduate Center**

**City University of New York**

### ***Integrating the History of Spanish and the History of New York: On the Political Nature of Linguistic Research***

Linguistic history has been practiced, by and large, as the reconstruction of how a formal grammatical system evolves through time. If we take Spanish as an example, we will easily identify a model that consists of a description of Latin grammar followed by the set of changes that affected this classical language and resulted in its becoming Old Spanish. The narrative focuses, firstly, on linguistic evolution in the central–northern regions of the Iberian Peninsula and, secondly, on the southward expansion of this new language as it became, on the one hand, the administrative language of a powerful kingdom (Castile) and, on the other, a cultivated form of literary expression.

This lecture, after presenting this traditional (and still dominant) model, will question its universal validity by identifying its ideological and socio-political underpinnings. This critique will lead into an alternative strategy to linguistic history that focuses not on the transformation of formal grammatical systems but on the linguistic transformation of human communities.

**Saturday, December 7, 2019**

**11 AM - 12 PM**

**Borough of Manhattan Community College**

**Room: S135**

**199 Chambers Street (at West Street), New York, NY 10007**

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

Attendees are invited to join the speaker for lunch at a nearby restaurant afterward  
(at their own expense).

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.

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