



TGIF 6 (Sem1, 2017): The NTU Linguist Chat Room Seminars

August 25 - Scott Moisik

**Evidence of anatomical biasing on click production:
Examining data from the ArtiVarK Study**

ArtiVarK is a large speech production and vocal tract anatomy database collected with the aim of examining influences of vocal tract shape variation on variation in speech production strategies. In this talk, I discuss what this database can tell us about how vocal tract shape might influence click production.

8 September - Hilary Chappell

Optional case marking in Sinitic and beyond: Mainland Southeast Asia and China

What is optional case marking? What are OEMs, DOMs and DAMs? This areal survey of many different Southeast Asian and Chinese languages explores how the phenomenon operates and even enables, when pragmatically controlled, a certain modicum of expressive freedom to speakers.

29 September - Ritu Jain

The 'other' tongue policy: Non-Tamil Indian Languages

In this presentation, I offer a brief snapshot of the historic and current status of the Non-Tamil Indian Languages (Bengali, Gujarati, Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu) as subjects in education. Using quantitative and qualitative data, I also discuss reasons for the popularity of some and the potential future challenges of the others.

20 October - Francesco Perono Cacciafoco

Glyph-Breakers at Work: Deciphering Linear A and Minoan

This talk is the story of the last (still ongoing) attempt to decipher Linear A, an undeciphered Aegean writing system, and Minoan, the language 'hidden' behind this script. This research combines comparative linguistics and cryptanalysis, aiming at an exhaustive survey, scanning, and documentation of the Linear A writing system, and at the complete deciphering of it.

27 October - Anne Pauwels

The rise and fall of macro-sociolinguistics: is there a future for macro-sociolinguistics?

Twentieth century approaches that focus on societal multilingualism (macro-sociolinguistics) have been criticized and found wanting in the examination and interpretation of 'new' forms of multilingualism and language practices that have emerged in the context of global mobility. In this talk I will discuss the 'debates' around this issue, mainly focusing on the question: are the criticisms justified or are we throwing the baby out with the bathwater?

