



# TGIF 9 (Sem2, AY2018-19): The NTU Linguist Chat Room Seminars

**March 1 - Junwen Lee**

## **An Evidential Analysis of CSE lah**

The Colloquial Singapore English (CSE) particle lah has been described as “one of the hardest and most intriguing chestnuts in the field of cross-cultural pragmatics” (Besemeres & Wierzbicka 2003: 3). Besides the fact that it can be pronounced in several pitch contours, it has also been observed to convey many different, and sometimes contradictory, pragmatic effects such as conveying forcefulness or friendliness. In this talk, I propose an analysis of lah as an evidential particle and show how it can better account for lah's various emphatic and social effects.

**March 22 - Alec Coupe**

## **The Aoic languages in areal and typological perspective**

Alexander Coupe is the author of *A grammar of Mongsen Ao* (2007) and has worked on the Tibeto-Burman, Indo-Aryan and Austroasiatic languages of Northeast India for over two decades. This research contributes to his theoretical interests in linguistic typology, grammaticalization, and the development of complexity in the world's languages.

**April 12 - Werner Botha**

## **Language in the social networks of university students in Singapore**

Recent macrolevel sociolinguistic research on bi- and multilingualism of university students in Singapore has shed some light on how students use various languages and language varieties in many contexts outside of their formal studies. However, there is still a dearth of research on the patterns of language use among these students and the social factors that interplay with their linguistic behaviour. This presentation explores language variation patterns in the vernacular speech of students in their social networks. This presentation draws on an on-going research project with students in Singapore and reports on the use of language in the personal lives of these speakers, which aims to inform the analysis of language use by university students in bi- and multilingual contexts. Although the research presented in this presentation focuses on Singapore, the research methods could be of particular relevance to other multilingual contexts. The study also provides detailed, microlevel accounts of the contexts, ideologies, perceptions, and various social issues that are indexed by the language use of the speakers.

