



WEDNESDAY SEMINAR

02.10.2019, 17:00 Uhr, HS-C

IKSA, NIG, Universitätsstraße 7, 1010 Wien, 4. Stock

Monica Heller

Language, Capitalism, Colonialism: A Critical Genealogy



Monica Heller is Professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education and the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto.

A Past President of the American Anthropological Association, she is a member of the Royal Society of Canada and Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Sociolinguistics.

This presentation, drawing from Heller and McElhinny 2017, considers the problem of the ontological status of language. I argue that the idea of language as an object of enquiry, separable from “cognition”, “society” and “culture”, is best understood as the product of a specific set of political economic conditions in which colonialism and capitalism are intertwined. One result is to render language available as a technique of regimentation and means for discursively legitimizing relations of social difference and social inequality. Within this framework, I will develop one particular case study, the rise of U.S. sociolinguistics/linguistic anthropology in the context of the Cold War.

kommende Termine

07.+09.10.2019 Susan McKinnon

30.10.2019 Krisztina Fehervary

Monica Heller and Bonnie McElhinny. 2017. Language, Capitalism, Colonialism: Toward a Critical History. Toronto: University of Toronto Press.
