

言語

BABEL

NGÔN NGỮ

REO

언어

भाषा

ORIGINS & ENDS
OF LANGUAGE

زبان

IDIOMA

SPRÆC

TIL

语言

JAZYK

ΓΛΩΣΣΑ

ភាសា

LINGUA

भाषा

CÀNAIN

ULIMI

שפּראַך

ЯЗЫК

ZIMAN

لغة

इंग्रजी

שפּראַך

SPRACHE

שפּראַך

LANGUE

TAAL

'ŌLELO

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24TH

**Note: the two morning sessions are being held in the Leu Center for the Visual Arts (LCVA) 120

9:30 – 10:45 LCVA 120The Linguists: PBS Documentary Viewing followed by Discussion

It's estimated that upwards of 40% of the more than 7000 languages spoken in the world today are at risk of extinction by the end of this century. This 2008 PBS documentary follows linguists David Harrison and Gregory Anderson as they work to document four of those vanishing languages. In the process, they help us understand both the factors threatening these languages as well as what is lost when the last speaker of a language dies. The video will be followed by a brief discussion of the insights offered about the nature of language itself.

Well-Core Category: Cultural Wellness

11:00 – 12:15 LCVA 120A to Z: The First Alphabet Documentary Viewing followed by discussion

All too often, in discussing the development and importance of human language, only oral language is focused on. This 2020 Nova episode charts the evolution of alphabetic writing, demonstrating in the process that writing systems themselves evolve across languages whose spoken forms may have little to no relationship to each other. Today, as many schools elect to no longer teach handwriting, this documentary is a reminder of the beauty of the scripts that gave rise to the writing systems we all rely on every day. A brief discussion will follow.

Well-Core Category: Intellectual Wellness

**Before heading back to Ayers for the next talk, why not visit the exhibit in the gallery next door (LCVA 121), themed to coordinate with this year's Humanities Symposium?

Choice Words: The Evolution & Consequence of Language

August 19 – September 27, 2024

Exhibit Description: Choice Words is an invitational group exhibition that explores the power of visual language. Language has taken on many forms beyond the spoken word. From the dawning cave wall drawings of our ancestors to the smiling characters on our phone screens, humans have always moved past the spoken word to express meaning. The written word has the power to exist beyond our senses. We can build a deeper meaning when we can come back to it. If spoken language is irretrievable, then visual language is accessible... even immortal. What would you have to say if it were to last forever?

1:00 – 1:50 Ayers 4th Floor Conference RoomThe Labels We Were Assigned: How Three Women Challenged the Language Meant to Confine Them

Labels can both categorize and constrain, often in ways that are helpful and hurtful. This presentation details the stories of three women and the limiting labels they were assigned – “impetuous,” “sentimental,” “uneducated” – language designed to diminish their voices. Through their narratives, this presentation discusses the implications of these labels and how these women challenged the language meant to confine them.

Dr. Christie Kleinmann Department of Public Relations

Well-Core Category: Intellectual Wellness

2:00 – 3:15 Ayers 4th Floor Conference RoomPanel Presentation: Hate and the Language of Denial and Misdirection

Dr. Keith Kahn-Harris, Dr. Shaul Kelner of Vanderbilt University and several members of the Belmont faculty will explore ways in which the purposes of prejudice and racism can be served by crafting language to recast and appropriate important terminology, deny factual information, and misdirect attention in such a way as to avoid overt expression of root causes and manifestations of various forms of racism, discrimination, and hatred.

Well-Core Category: Intellectual Wellness

3:30 – 4:45 Ayers 4th Floor Conference RoomFeatured Speaker: Dr. Viktorija BilićTranslation and Interpreting as a Profession

The presentation will provide an overview of the fields of translation and interpreting as a profession. You will learn about the differences between both professions, skills and requirements, fields of specialization, as well as career opportunities in the language-services industry.

Dr. Viktorija Bilić Chair of Translation Studies, University of Wisconsin—Milwaukee

Well-Core Category: Occupational Wellness

5:30 – 6:00 Pre-movie Snacks Hallway outside AYRS 10376:00 – 9:30 AYRS 1037Fritz Lang's Metropolis: Film viewing followed by discussion

In the late 1920's, German director Fritz Lang released his silent film masterpiece Metropolis, still regarded as one of the greatest science fiction films ever made. While attention is often focused on Lang's presentation of the first fully realized robot (or 'Maschinen Mensch'), in fact the film's recasting of the Biblical story of Babel is both central to the film's message and relevant to the subject of this symposium. Following a viewing of this film, featured speaker Viktorija Bilić will lead a discussion of the film.

Well-Core Category: Cultural Wellness