



The End: how a language dies

Date : 15 December 2017 (Friday)
Time : 1:00 - 2:30pm
Venue : Swire Hall 1, Fung King Hey Building
Language : English

What Tolstoy wrote about happy and unhappy families applies equally to languages: all living languages are alike; each dying language is dying in its own way. Because the death of a language is a particular death, the death of this language and not some other one, the story of its demise has to be a specific story. For the past thirty years I have conducted research on an isolate Papuan language in the lower Sepik region of Papua New Guinea. The language, called Tayap, is dying; it currently has fewer than 50 active speakers. I have recently completed a book that documents the death of Tayap, and in this seminar I will present material from that book.

Don Kulick is Distinguished University Professor of Anthropology at Uppsala University and head of the Engaging Vulnerability research program. His research and writing cover a wide range of topics and disciplines, including sociolinguistics, gender and sexuality studies, disability studies, queer studies and human-animal communication.



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Light refreshment will be served at 12:30pm. First come first served.

For enquiry, please contact Department of Anthropology or Faculty Office of Arts

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