

GUEST LECTURE

Marta Degani

Insights into Maori English from cultural linguistic perspectives

Friday, November 25

8:30-10:00 am

HS 5 ^¾



Marta Degani currently holds a position as Senior Scientist of English Linguistics at the University of Klagenfurt.

Even though New Zealand (NZ) can be described as a predominantly monolingual English-speaking country, its linguistic landscape is characterized by a peculiar situation of language contact between English and the indigenous Māori language. Not only does the integration of borrowings from Māori mark the uniqueness of New Zealand English, but the interaction between Māori and English has also led to further linguistic influences in the context of NZ. Most notably, the interrelation between the indigenous tongue and English has inspired the formation of a contact variety of English which has traditionally been referred to as Maori English.

This talk will illustrate the language contact scenario that brought to the emergence of Maori English, present competing definitions of the variety, and provide illustrative examples of its most distinctive features on different levels of linguistic analysis. The lecture will also emphasize the need to expand current research on Maori English in order to embrace the vital nexus between language and culture. This will be done by exploring significant cultural conceptualizations that characterize the variety.