Invites you to an
Inaugural Lecture
by
Dr. Panayiotis Pappas

*Structured variation in language*

From the very beginning of the enterprise of variationist sociolinguistics, Weinreich et al (1968) put forward the claim that linguistic competence must be modeled as inherently heterogeneous albeit in an orderly way.

In this retrospective lecture, I will first discuss the development of this concept over the past five decades, and how it has fallen out of fashion. I will then examine the results of my own research into variable patterns of usage, mostly within the history and dialectology of Greek, but spanning several different components of grammar, such as phonology, morphology and syntax. I will try to make the case that these findings support Weinreich et al's claim, and offer some suggestions about how to reignite interest in the modeling of structured heterogeneity in language.

Thursday March 28 at 11:30am in Halpern Centre 126
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