

# Original Languages of the American Continent

What is being done to strengthen their position in general  
and in relation to the various national languages

## INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

University of Copenhagen, February 24-25, 2011

The last two or three decades have seen a growing focus on endangered languages, and much initiative has been undertaken with the purpose of documenting languages – before it is too late. The Nordic Network for Amerindian Studies, Netindis, convenes its 3rd international conference focusing on Amerindian languages in an effort to explore the variety of measures being undertaken to strengthen their position in general and in relation to the various national languages. The conference will feature five keynote speakers who have all worked for years in this area, each with their individual expertise and background. Netindis members as well as others who have worked with Amerindian languages and with language education are invited to participate in the conference and to present individual papers related to the topic.

As keynote speakers we are pleased to welcome

**Michel Launey**, professor emeritus of linguistics at Denis-Diderot (Paris-7) University. After studying the Nahuatl language of Mexico, he spent 8 years (2000-2007) in French Guiana, particularly interested in the Palikur language and in educational issues in the multilingual context. The title of his presentation is "When the French educational system meets Amerindian children".

**Lucy A. Trapnell Forero**, co-founder of the FORMABIAP Teacher Training Programme for Intercultural Bilingual Education in the Amazon Basin, Iquitos, Peru. She is currently developing a Decentralized Teacher Training Programme with the Universidad Nacional Mayor de San Marcos and the Regional Organisation of Indigenous People of the Central Amazon. Her presentation is entitled: "Intercultural bilingual teacher training programs: a spur for the revitalization and enrichment of indigenous languages?".

**Michael Swanton**, American linguist, educated in France and Holland, coordinator of Linguistic Projects, Biblioteca Francisco Burgoa in Oaxaca, México. He has worked with a number of languages spoken in the state of Oaxaca as well as with colonial documents written in the same languages. His presentation is entitled "Schools, artists and youth movements: Recent social developments in Oaxacan indigenous languages."

**Susanne J. Pérez**, based on her expertise in in-service-training of indigenous Quechua-speaking teachers in intercultural bilingual education, Susanne Pérez's presentation will be on "Regional Education Projects in Peru and their impact on indigenous languages and indigenous education - the case of Cusco".

**Roberto Zavala Maldonado**, a Mexican linguist with expertise on Mesoamerican languages. He is at CIESAS-Sureste in San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, and works with education of young indigenous persons who wish to become linguists. His presentation is entitled: "Speakers being the linguists: Training indigenous speakers as researchers of their own languages".

The deadline for abstracts is December 20, 2010

There is no registration fee as the Network has secured funding for this conference. Members are responsible for their own travel and accommodation. Participants are invited to a complimentary conference dinner on Friday, February 25th.

Participants – with or without papers – are asked to let the Network coordinator know, no later than January 20, 2011 if you plan to participate in the conference and in the dinner on Friday night.

Contact the Network coordinator: Hanne Veber, Ph.D., American Indian Languages and Cultures Section.  
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