The Program in Linguistics at Middlebury College presents

'Language Matters'

A series for open discussions on issues of language and linguistics

Sociolinguistic Variation in the Use of Second Person Singular Pronouns in Florianópolis, Brazil

A Thesis Presentation by Mark Balderston '15.5
(Independent Scholar in Linguistics)

Thursday December 10 at 4:30-5:30pm (in Axinn 219)

The alternation of second person singular pronouns *tu* and *você* in the Brazilian Portuguese of Florianópolis is a highly variable linguistic phenomenon conditioned by sociohistorical and geographic factors. This variation is not simply a case of lexical alternation nor is it tied to situational formality (like Spanish *tú/usted*). Rather, it is a case of complex morphosyntactic variation conditioned by a variety of sociogeographic factors, ranging from the initial colonization patterns of Southern Brazil to contemporary population dynamics. In a sociolinguistic study of the speech of 12 Florianopolitans, we examine the relationship between *tu* and *você* in contemporary Southern Brazilian speech and tackle the challenging question: Is this language undergoing change?

Refreshments will be served!

For questions on the *Language Matters* series, please contact Karin Hanta (khanta@middlebury.edu) or Usama Soltan (usoltan@middlebury.edu).
For more information on Linguistics at Middlebury, please visit the program's webpage:
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