

**The Linguistics Program @ Middlebury College  
presents a lecture by**

**Toni Cook**

**Postdoctoral scholar, University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa**

**Identifying a new sociolinguistic variable:  
The rural-urban divide in Zululand  
and the townships of Durban, South Africa**



**Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 4:30pm**

**Franklin Environmental Center, The Orchard-Hillcrest 103**

What are the linguistic implications of the social and cultural changes that have taken place in South Africa since the end of apartheid? This talk focuses on charting these changes through a particular process in the Zulu verb, known as reduplication. Fieldwork conducted in South Africa reveals a variable distributed along familiar sociolinguistic lines, specifically urban vs. rural speakers. Beyond the current linguistic situation in the KwaZulu-Natal region in South Africa, this talk engages with the important methodological question: how do we move from the observation of raw data showing variation to interpreting how a variable is sociolinguistically stratified?

**Free and open to the public • Refreshments will be served**

**For more information on Linguistics on campus, please visit  
<http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/linguistics>**