

## IKMAS SEMINAR SERIES NO. 14/2019

# LANGUAGE EDUCATION AND CANADA'S INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

**Assoc. Prof. Dr Mela Sarkar**  
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*Mela Sarkar's research focuses on the empowerment of linguistically marginalized populations, specifically immigrant-origin youth and Canadian Indigenous communities, through language acquisition and education (sometimes their own, sometimes that of majority-language speakers, who are too often monolingual). She works within a critical paradigm and endeavors to involve community members in research, for example using Participatory Action Research methodology, as much as possible. Attempting to understand power imbalances and social inequities based in language attitudes and use, and looking for ways to redress them, is the common theme underlying her diverse areas of interest.*

In this talk, the historical and sociopolitical context for the language education of Indigenous peoples in Canada will be outlined. Contemporary Indigenous policies, programs and pedagogical strategies around language education will be discussed in the aftermath of the Indigenous struggle for self-determination and increasing mainstream awareness of Indigenous language and education issues (such as the formal 2008 Canadian government apology to former students of residential schools and the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission). A surge in Indigenous population growth resulting in an increasingly youthful population profile, a pull towards urbanization, and the rise of new technologies are all factors that are affecting the landscape of language and education in Indigenous Canada. Data from a language maintenance project in a Quebec Innu community and a language revitalization project in a Mi'gmaq community in the Maritimes, will be used to demonstrate the gamut of Indigenous responses to the challenge of not one but two colonizing languages in the wider Canadian context.

**IKMAS MEETING ROOM,  
IKMAS BUILDING,  
UKM BANGI**

**27<sup>th</sup> November**

**2 0 1 9**

**10.00 am - 12.00 pm**

**All are  
invited**