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Talks



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Raciolinguistic ideologies *at work*

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**OCT
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Date: October 31, 2019
(Thursday)

Time: 12-1:30pm

Location: 3700 McTavish
Street, McGill's Faculty of
Education

Room: EDUC233

Language of presentation:
English

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As conceptualized in the work of Nelson Flores and Jonathan Rosa, raciolinguistic ideologies refer to the representation of the language practices of racialized people as perpetually deficient in spite of evidence showing otherwise. In one sense, *at work* is used to refer to the presence of these ideologies in the workplace. However, when signifying in action, *at work* emphasizes how, in the late capitalist economy where language is a ubiquitous component of work, raciolinguistic ideologies are actively deployed in determining who is or is not an ideal worker or what are the organizational responsibilities and goals of employees. The talk examines the labour market experiences of racialized English language teachers, whose alleged linguistic incompetence makes them unemployable. It looks at the labouring practices of international teaching assistants in terms of how they adhere to and complicate raciolinguistic ideologies in their conception and execution of a satisfactory professional accent in internationalizing universities.

Vijay Ramjattan has a PhD degree from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), a division of the University of Toronto. His doctoral research, which examined the racialization and professionalization of accent with regard to the experiences of international teaching assistants, reflects his general interest in the intersection of language, race, and work. Part of his current thinking involves trying to incorporate anti-racist perspectives in workplace language learning.