

The Center for Multilingual & Intercultural Communication

The MIC Distinguished Lecture Series

Critical Approaches to Social Justice and Antiracism in Language Education

Wednesday, October 21, 2020, 1:00–2:20 pm on Zoom

Registration is required. Please click [here](#).

Equity, diversity, and social justice have recently attracted a great deal of attention in language education. These values are widely accepted by institutions and instructors committed to fostering ethics and collaboration among citizens in our increasingly volatile world. Yet, they can also become a set of superficial slogans with little substance, resulting in a discourse that is non-performative. The recent antiracist social movements also contain both potential and pitfalls. This presentation will scrutinize the concept of social justice, various dimensions and effects of racism, and raise an alarm for so-called Oppression Olympics—competitions focusing on the amount of vulnerability experienced by different racialized groups, pitting them against each other. Critical language teaching must recognize these potential problems of education for social justice and antiracism, and should strive for developing contextual ethics and empathy in order to build solidarity among different groups and to enact criticality in institutional and instructional practices.



Ryuko Kubota

Ryuko Kubota is a Professor in the Department of Language and Literacy Education at University of British Columbia, where she teaches applied linguistics and teacher education. Her research draws on critical approaches to second language education, focusing on race, gender, culture, and language ideologies. Her publications appear in such journals as *Applied Linguistics*, *Critical Inquiry in Language Studies*, *Foreign Language Annals*, *Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development*, *Journal of Second Language Writing*, *TESOL Quarterly*, and *World Englishes*. She is a co-editor of *Race, culture, and identities in second language education: Exploring critically engaged practice* (Routledge 2009).

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The Center for Multilingual & Intercultural Communication (MIC) is an interdisciplinary research center where applied linguists, linguists, psychologists, communication scholars, education specialists and scholars of allied disciplines explore multilingual repertoires as rich resources in the context of global mobility and technological advancement.

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