

Call for Papers for Lavender Languages and Linguistics Conference (Sept 2-4, Edinburgh) and Proposed Special Issue:

In-Group Queer Languages Beyond the West

Pioneering researchers of twentieth-century argots developed by sexual and gender minorities documented covert lexicons employed by trans women and gay men – often including sex workers – and, to a lesser extent, lesbian women and trans men (Hayes 1976; Painter 1981; Sonenschein 1969). This research typically explained the emergence of in-group linguistic practices through the lens of Halliday's (1976) anti-language framework.

As the field of lavender linguistics developed, however, scholars began to challenge the notion that these lexicons, sociolects, and registers solely functioned as secret codes. Subsequent research moved beyond compiling inventories of lexical terms to adopt more nuanced analytical approaches. While some scholars have emphasized the functional ability of sociolects to produce belonging among sex/gender minorities (Boellstorff 2004), others reveal how such argots work to highlight disbelonging and reify difference within a purportedly unified LGBTQ community (Levon 2012).

Much of this scholarship has disproportionately focused on coded forms of speech employed in Western Europe or North America (Leap 1996; Baker 2002; Leap 2020; Chauncey 1994) and white South Africa (Cage and Evans 2003). The epistemic hegemony of institutions within these regions over academic knowledge production and circulation resulted in research agendas that privilege communities and contexts most accessible to Western academia. Our proposed special issue, however, aims to contribute to the scholarship on queer argots outside these regions, building upon the rich ethnographic work on *bhasa gay* in Indonesia (Boellstorff 2004), *swardspeak* in the Philippines (Manalansan 2003; Casabal 2008), *pajubá* in Brazil (Simões de Araújo 2022), and *isiNgqumo* in South Africa (Rudwick and Ntuli 2008), among others.

This panel and proposed special issue seek to expand scholarly attention to marginalized queer sociolects of the Global South, indigenous communities, and Europe's peripheries. Beyond regional expansion, we invite contributions that examine how these multifaceted, camouflaged vernaculars and their lifecycles elide binary understandings of secrecy and visibility and open up, even if just briefly, novel and emancipatory opportunities for self-identification outside of dominant languages. We are particularly interested in work that situates these linguistic practices within the context of mass mediation and appropriation, the ascendancy of global far-right anti-gender

ideologies, and the creative, playful, and activist-oriented terrains of 21st-century queer life (Barrett 2018).

We are seeking scholarly presentations which employ any number of methodologies and may be pursuing scholarly research on a queer language, either historical or contemporary. Contributors whose papers are accepted for the panel will be invited to develop their work for inclusion in a proposed special issue of *Language and Sexuality*. If you are interested in contributing, please submit a paper title and an abstract of no more than 400 words by March 17th to Seth Palmer at seth.palmer@cnu.edu.