

# SCHOOL KIDS INVESTIGATING LANGUAGE IN LIFE + SOCIETY



## DR. MARY BUCHOLTZ

**“Respetar mi idioma”: Promoting Linguistic Diversity and Sociolinguistic Justice through Youth Research and Activism**

**Thursday, March 20, 12-1:15 pm  
Center for Korean Studies**



Mary Bucholtz is Professor of Linguistics and Director of the Center for California Languages and Cultures at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Her current research focuses on language and expertise among youth.

Abstract:

In this talk I demonstrate how a combined research and community partnership program in California addresses educational and linguistic problems by promoting sociolinguistic justice (Bucholtz et al. forthcoming). SKILLS (School Kids Investigating Language in Life and Society) prepares low-income Latina/o high school students for college by guiding them to undertake original research and activist projects on language, identity, and power in their lives. The goal of SKILLS is not to “empower” youth but to recognize their already considerable agency to challenge sociolinguistic injustice. I consider two different student-activist projects within the program that illustrate youth agency in countering linguistic racism. The SKILLS program provides one example of how universities can work with local youth to foster linguistic diversity and educational equity.

*This series is sponsored by the Charlene J. Sato Center for Pidgin, Creole, and Dialect Studies, and is made possible by a grant from the Diversity and Equity Initiative at UHM. For questions, please contact Christina Higgins [cmhiggin@hawaii.edu](mailto:cmhiggin@hawaii.edu) or Katie Drager [kdrager@hawaii.edu](mailto:kdrager@hawaii.edu)*