



LISO RFG Talk: John J. Gumperz Memorial Lecture
**Accent, Interaction, and Intimacy
on the Autism Spectrum**

FEB
21
FRI

1:30 – 3:30 PM
1205 Education

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If social intimacy is collaboratively produced in interaction, then how do individuals with atypical interactional behaviors achieve it? This paper addresses a sociolinguistic practice noted for individuals on the autism spectrum but rarely analyzed: the sustained adoption of non-local dialect features. For sociolinguists who view second dialect acquisition as a social achievement importantly related to identity, this practice presents a paradox: How do individuals with such a purportedly “asocial” syndrome accomplish an activity that is intensely social? The talk draws from interviews conducted at CU Boulder for a multi-year project on accent imitation in autism.

The John J. Gumperz Memorial Lecture honors the life and work of John J. Gumperz, the founder of interactional sociolinguistics and a longtime member of the LISO community.

Kira Hall is Professor of Linguistics and Anthropology at the University of Colorado Boulder. Current President of the Society for Linguistic Anthropology, she has published on such topics as language and sexuality in India, Hinglish, embodied sociolinguistics, and Trump’s use of comedic gesture. She is coeditor of the forthcoming *Oxford Handbook of Language and Sexuality*.

Sponsored by the Interdisciplinary Humanities Center’s Language, Interaction, and Social Organization (LISO) Research Focus Group, the Department of Communication, the Department of Linguistics, and the Department of Education, UCSB

Image: A still from Episode 30, “Accent You Hate,” of Dexter’s Laboratory, a cartoon much beloved by the participants in Dr. Hall’s study