

Shana Poplack

Distinguished University Professor and Canada Research Chair (I) in Linguistics at University of Ottawa

Ottawa, ON, CA

Sociolinguist specializing in vernacular speech, with a focus on bilingual and minority contexts

Biography

Shana Poplack is Distinguished University Professor and Canada Research Chair in Linguistics and director of the Sociolinguistics Laboratory at the University of Ottawa. Her work applies theoretical and methodological insights gained from the study of linguistic variation and change to a variety of fields, including bilingual language mixing, language contact and grammatical convergence, the genesis of African American Vernacular English, normative prescription and praxis, and the role of the school in impeding linguistic change.

Industry Expertise

Education/Learning, Research

Areas of Expertise

Language Variation, Language change, Quebec English, English in Canada, Bilingualism , Sociolinguistics, Language, Linguistics, Language Contact, French in Canada, African American Vernacular English, Language Prescription, Language Ideology

Affiliations

Member - Order of Canada (2014), Fellow - Royal Society of Canada (1998), Fellow - Linguistic Society of America (2009), Distinguished University Professor - University of Ottawa (2002), Canada Research Chair in Linguistics (2001-present), Director, Sociolinguistics Laboratory, University of Ottawa (1982-present)

Event Appearances

Telling tales out of school: prescriptive dictates meet community norms in vernacular entrenchment and spread.

Schultink lecture in honour of Henk Schultink (June, 2017)

Contact-induced change in the wild: Using linguistic variation to detect, analyze and distinguish it from internal evolution.

Wellsprings Forum Dialogue (February, 2017)

Big languages in small communities: a variationist sociolinguistic approach to language contact and change.

Wellsprings Forum Dialogue (February, 2017)

A variationist approach to language contact phenomena.

Invited Master class (February, 2017)

Form-function (a)symmetry and the pursuit of categoricity.

Centre of Excellence for the Dynamics of Language (CoEDL) Fest. (February, 2017)

L'anglicisme à domicile: Un portrait (socio)linguistique.

Colloque du réseau des organismes francophones de politique et d'aménagement linguistiques (OPALE). Les anglicismes : des emprunts à intérêt variable? (October, 2016)

Reporting on reported speech: Transmission and diffusion in the Quebec English quotative system.

Discourse Pragmatic Variation and Change (DiPVaC) 3. (May, 2016)

Prescription, description and praxis.

Workshop on the effects of prescriptivism in language history (January, 2016)

The sharp divide between single- and multi-word code-mixing: Evidence from the ground.

(November, 2015)

Confronting theory with fact: Language mixing on the ground.

Bilingual Workshop in Theoretical Linguistics (BWTL) 18 / Linguistics Talks at Western speaker series. (November, 2015)

Normes en conflit: L'école, la communauté et l'idéologie normative.

Colloque international VocUM 2. (November 2015)

Pursuing symmetry by eradicating variability.

New Ways of Analyzing Variation (NWAV) 44. (October 2015)

Le trajet sociolinguistique des emprunts.

Colloque étudiantin annuel de la Société des études supérieures de français. (April 2015)

Shana Poplack traces the evolution of speech.

Joint NSERC and SSHRC Lunch-and-Learn lecture. (January 2015)

Education

University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D. Linguistics

New York University
M.A Linguistics and French Literature

Queens College, City University of New York (CUNY)
B.A Romance Languages

Accomplishments

Member, Order of Canada
Governor General of Canada

Canada Research Chair in Linguistics (Tier 1)
Government of Canada

Canada Research Chair in Linguistics (Tier 1)
Government of Canada

Canada Research Chair in Linguistics (Tier 1)
Government of Canada

Gold Medal for Achievement in Research
Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada

National Achievement Award
Canadian Linguistics Association

Premier's Discovery Award
Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation

Trudeau Fellowship Award
Trudeau Foundation

Killam Prize
Canada Council for the Arts

Pierre Chauveau Medal
Royal Society of Canada

Award for Excellence in Research
University of Ottawa

Ontario Distinguished Researcher Award
Ontario Innovation Trust

Distinguished University Professor
University of Ottawa

Killam Research Fellowship
Canada Council for the Arts

Professor of the Year
Faculty of Arts, University of Ottawa

Fellow
Royal Society of Canada

Fulbright Visiting Scholar Award
Pontificia Universidade Catolica de Sao Paulo (1990)

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