



Language Shift and Endangerment of Nagu in the Solomon Islands

Anthropology Brown Bag

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Tuesday December 2, 2008
12:00-1:00PM
LA5-163

In the Pacific Islands, many small languages are undocumented and disappearing. On the island of Santa Cruz, the Nagu language may become one of these disappearing languages. Nagu is the smallest language on the island of Santa Cruz spoken in only 3 villages and surrounded by two larger languages. The majority of the population over the age of 18 still knows and uses Nagu, but many of the children are switching to Solomon Islands Pijin. In this presentation, I will explore how the causes of language shift are a combined result of the daily language use, the multilingual context of Santa Cruz, and the ideological views of Nagu.