



**Two invited lectures by**

**Professor** **Ricardo Otheguy**

**CUNY Graduate Center, Linguistics / Hispanic & Luso-Brazilian Literature & Language**

### **On so-called Spanglish \***

‘Spanglish’, the word often used to describe the casual oral registers of the speech of Hispanics in the US, is an unfortunate and misleading term. We demonstrate here that features that characterize popular varieties of Spanish in the US are, for the most part, parallel to those of popular forms of the language in Latin America and Spain. Further, we show that Spanish in the US is not of a hybrid character, i.e., not centrally characterized by structural mixing with English. We reject the term because (1) there is no objective justification for it, and (2) it expresses an ideology of exceptionalism and scorn that actually deprives the North American Latino community of a major resource in this globalized world: mastery of a world language.

**Thursday, April 18, 2013 @ 7:30 PM**

**Boston University KCB 101**

### **The Spanish of second generation bilinguals in New York: A linguistic approach \*\***

The term ‘heritage speaker’ is now used as a description of speakers of languages other than English who were born in the U.S. or came here in early infancy, and who are almost without exception bilingual in English and such languages as Greek, Russian, Spanish, etc. The term is the new element of a 3-way-distinction that has replaced the old 2-way differentiation between native and non-native (or L<sub>1</sub> and L<sub>2</sub>) speakers of a language. For example, a Russian born in Brooklyn to Russian-speaking parents (and who likely spoke only Russian from birth to age 4 or 5) is clearly not an L<sub>2</sub> speaker of Russian, but is not an L<sub>1</sub> speaker either; he or she is a heritage speaker of Russian.

We propose that the 2nd generation bilinguals we have studied in New York are native Spanish speakers whose main point of distinction from the 1st generation is lack of exposure to schooling in Spanish. Lack of exposure to schooling means, of course, limited exposure to the forces of standardization.

**Friday, April 19, 2013 @ 1:00 PM**

**Boston University SAR 102**

Sponsored by:

\* The BU Linguistics Association (BULA)  
(partially funded by the undergraduate student fee)

\*\* The BU Romance Studies Department

See <http://ling.bu.edu/events/> for further details.