

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies (CLACS) at New York University and the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) at Columbia University present

# Peru's Language Policies in Times of Change?

**Miryam Yataco**

**Steinhardt School of Culture Education and Human Development  
Teaching and Learning, NYU**

Welcome: Odi Gonzales (Quechua Language, NYU)

Introductory Remarks: T. James Matthews (Native People's Forum)

**Monday, December 13 - 5:00-7:00pm**

**Room 802 at 420 West 118th St., International Affairs Building, Columbia University**

The last few years have seen important developments in the politics of indigenous languages and language rights in Peru – developments that have not only local and regional but global significance. This talk will briefly explore the historical background, and provide firsthand insights into how and why things could be changing looking at it from the two perspectives: top down and bottom up initiatives. In 2006 the congress rejected Law 806, "In Defense of the Use and Preservation of Original languages of Peru" on the grounds that the country was not ready for this kind of legislation. However, in the last four years, the terrain has shifted even more significantly. There has been an explosion of literature, music and other popular cultural expressions in mainly Quechua and Aymara and the presence of indigenous languages is becoming more evident in the media and in other public domains.

There have also been new regional initiatives in Bilingual Intercultural Programs such as the one in Apurimac, called QUECHUA FOR ALL. Bilingual Intercultural Educators are at the forefront of these changes, acting in many ways as policy makers, negotiating, interpreting and recreating language education policies. Lastly, although there had previously been indigenous elected officials, there is a new generation of indigenous congress people who use Quechua on a daily basis – in their offices and on the floor of the congress. Drawing upon her background in sociolinguistics and her work as a language rights specialist in the office of one of the indigenous congress people who has sponsored the language rights legislation, Miryam will share some thoughts on the topics proposed.

Miryam Yataco is a Peruvian sociolinguist, a language rights advocate and a faculty member in the Department of Teaching and Learning, Multilingual Multicultural Studies at Steinhardt School of Culture, Education and Human Development in New York University. She is also a member of the NYU Native Peoples Forum.

SEMANA RUNASIMIMANTA / SEMANA DE KICHWA

## Quechua Week<sup>2010</sup>

**All events are free and open to the public.**

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