

GUEST LECTURE

Wednesday, 4 June 2014, 10:00-12:00, Lecture hall XVII

Department of English, American and Celtic Studies, Regina-Pacis-Weg 5

Professor Janet Holmes (Victoria University, Wellington, New Zealand)

**Variational pragmatics and applied linguistics:
sociopragmatic dimensions of workplace talk**

Abstract: This talk will discuss the direction of the most recent research by the Wellington Language in the Workplace Project team, which has involved analysing data from workplace sites where recently arrived refugees are likely to seek work. I will focus in particular on the challenge of developing relevant sociopragmatic skills for use in such workplaces, illustrating from both the transactional (directives) and relational (small talk, humour) dimensions of workplace interaction. The worksites used for exemplification are unmistakably gendered as relatively more masculine, namely building sites, or relatively more feminine, namely eldercare residencies. Finally the paper will provide some specific examples of how our research has been used in preparing people for real world workplace contexts.

Introduction: Prof. Dr. Klaus P. Schneider

Janet Holmes, one of the leading sociolinguists world-wide, is director of the large-scale research project "Language in the Workplace" (www.victoria.ac.nz/lals/centres-and-institutes/language-in-the-workplace).