

Dr. Alexander Mendes



Reading Multi-Lingual Corsica: The Linguistic Landscape of Rue Droite

Friday, February 1st
3:30pm - 4:30pm
B-342 Wells Hall
619 Red Cedar Rd.

This presentation analyzes the multilingual linguistic landscape (LL) of one street in Northern Corsica. The focal street, Rue droite, is notorious for being a hub of (im)migrants and (supposedly) the center of drug trade in the city. The street's LL is incongruent with local orientations to identity, belonging, and space on Corsica—namely, the idea that use of Corsican is reserved for Corsicans alone. The linguistic coexistence attested by Rue droite's LL demands a critical reconsideration of multilingual dynamics in peripheral francophone spaces. Creative use of Corsican by (im)migrant allophones in this liminal space foregrounds the intersection of politico-racial tensions and literacy in minoritized codes, and calls us to reimagine how resistance is mobilized.