

# Indigenous and Endangered Languages and the Linguistics Program presents:

## Linguistic Inequality and Sociolinguistic Justice in Campus Life



Walt Wolfram is William C. Friday Distinguished University Professor at North Carolina State University, where he also directs the North Carolina Language and Life Project. He has pioneered research on social and ethnic dialects since the 1960s and published more than 20 books and over 300 articles. Over the last two decades, he and his students have conducted more than 3,000 sociolinguistic interviews with residents of North Carolina and beyond, primarily under funding from the National Science Foundation. In addition to his research interests, Professor Wolfram is particularly interested in the application of socio-linguistic information to the public, including the production of a number of television documentaries, the construction of museum exhibits, and the development of an innovative formal and informal materials related to language diversity. He has received numerous awards, including the North Carolina Award (the highest award given to a citizen of North Carolina), Caldwell Humanities Laureate from the NC Humanities Council, the Holladay Medal at NC State, and the Linguistics, Language and the Public Award from the Linguistic Society of America. He has also served as President of the Linguistic Society of America, the American Dialect Society, and the Southeastern Conference on Linguistics.

### Talk Abstract:

"The collision of academic prejudice and accent is particularly ironic. Academics lean to the center-left nearly everywhere, and talk endlessly about class and Multiculturalism. (...) And yet accent and dialect are still barely on many people's minds as deserving respect." (The Economist, January 30, 2015) Notwithstanding the current emphasis on embracing diversity on most university campuses, linguistic subordination is still reproduced and enabled at most universities. Furthermore, language diversity remains excluded from or erased in the diversity canon. We conclude, based on the empirical study of linguistic aggressions and micro-aggressions by students and faculty on a major university campus, that language differences remain a major source of social inequality and intolerance in higher education. In response to these findings, we have established an innovative language diversity program for universities that targets faculty, staff, and students. Illustrations of the process and the program are presented, and audiovisual production products, and campus resources are integrated into the presentation.

**Dr. Walt Wolfram**

**Thursday, March 30**

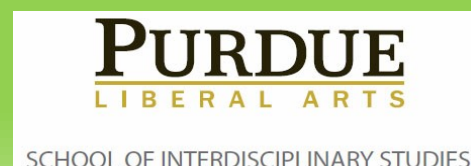
**3:00pm**

**LWSN 1142**

**Refreshments will be served.**



**This program is free and  
open to the public.**



**Co-sponsoring programs: the African American Studies and Research Center, the English Department, the Diversity Resource Office, the Division of Diversity and Inclusion and the Indigenous and Endangered Language Lab.**