

## **Your linguistics training at work: defining skills and decoding job ads**

Anastasia Nylund (Georgetown University)

Recent and ongoing shifts in the labor market have increased the range of professional opportunities available to linguists. Linguists at all levels of career development need to educate themselves about potential applications of their training in order to build interesting, dynamic and creative careers that take advantage of the extensive and varied skills they acquire throughout their education and practice as linguists. Additionally, faculty who mentor linguistics students are increasingly being called upon to provide professional development resources to their mentees, frequently without much support from their home institutions.

In an effort to underscore the importance of NWAV 45's theme of language policy, planning, and minority language equity and access, the workshop will pay specific attention to how linguists - and variationist sociolinguists in particular - can position themselves and promote their skills for employment in relevant sectors: human services, non-profit organizations, and education.

The workshop will offer hands-on practice and resources that can form the foundation of a student's individual career exploration and a mentor's toolkit for guiding their students. The bulk of the workshop will be devoted to examining examples of real job listings where linguists can distinguish themselves, and strategies for applying. This small group exercise will focus on searching for keywords in job announcements, demonstrating the types of opportunities that exist, and decoding potentially confusing language and/or phrasing and nomenclature an academically oriented linguist might not be used to. Participants will then practice making direct links between the skills they have identified in their own professional practice, and the abilities sought by employers, by formulating very brief self-introductions with a particular opportunity in mind.

Finally, the facilitator will provide some concrete resources for participants to take back to their own communities, enabling them to repeat their workshops on their own campuses, in mentoring meetings, in faculty and student groups, and in more informal venues.