



Trace Foundation Launches First Lecture Series

MINORITY LANGUAGE IN TODAY'S GLOBAL SOCIETY

November 22, 2008

TRACE FOUNDATION'S first lecture series is entitled *Minority Language in Today's Global Society*. The lecture events in the series will bring together speakers from diverse national and disciplinary backgrounds to examine and share experiences on the selected topics at hand, with a special comparative focus on Tibetan language communities in China. Each event will be organized around different topics such as mother-tongue language use policies and practices, minority language in the internet age, language endangerment and preservation, mother-tongue education models and practices, language diversity and biodiversity, language standardization, linguistics research, and more. **The lectures are free and open to the public.** A series publication will be produced and distributed.

SPEAKERS

Peter K. Austin, Director and Professor, Endangered Languages Academic Program,
School of Oriental and African Studies

Pema Bhum, Director, Latse Contemporary Tibetan Cultural Library

Fernand de Varennes, Acting Dean and Professor, School of Law, Murdoch University

Manlha Kyi, Faculty of Education, University of Hong Kong

Other speakers to be announced.

INTRODUCTION TO THE SERIES

Date: Saturday, November 22nd, 2008

Time: 9:30am-5:30pm, followed by a reception

Place: Trace Foundation & Latse Contemporary Tibetan Cultural Library
132 Perry Street, 2B, New York, NY 10014

Contact: events@trace.org or 212-367-7380

***Registration requested.** To register, please call or email us with your name, contact email, telephone, affiliation, and mailing address.

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SERIES





MORE ON THIS LECTURE

Many recent reports cited by UNESCO and other agencies estimate that up to 90% of the world's languages will be lost in the next 100 years if current trends continue. The vast majority of these languages will be those of minorities, indigenous, and marginalized peoples. The UN has recognized the significance and urgency of language use by declaring 2008 the International Year of Languages. Efforts to reverse this trend will require the support and cooperation of actors at all levels: from the UN, to national governments, to local communities, and the individual. **So what does this matter to us in an increasingly globalized world? How and why does language loss happen? How can international legal and policy instruments protect and support language vitality and diversity?**

According to recent Chinese government statistics, Tibetan language speakers comprise 0.4% of the Chinese population. Tibetan language use is protected and supported under Chinese national and local laws and policy initiatives. **How are these laws and policies interpreted and implemented? What are the implications for Tibetan language use in China, now and in the future? What can international and Chinese standards and practices learn from each other?**

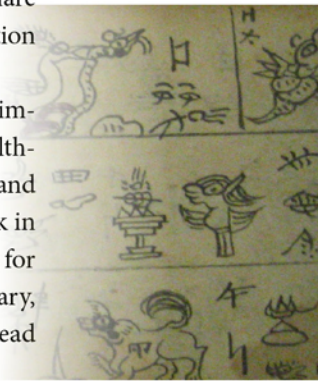
These are just some of the questions and issues we will attempt to explore during this introductory event to the series. Each speaker will present a paper, followed by a discussion with fellow speakers, and a chance to take questions and comments from the audience. The event will conclude with a reception.



TRACE FOUNDATION LECTURE SERIES PROGRAM

Trace Foundation is launching a lecture series program to examine various topics related to development in culture, education, healthcare, and rural development from a global perspective, with a special comparative focus on Tibetan communities in China. Each lecture series will focus on a different topic, such as minority language, development models, land use, cultural preservation, tourism and local communities, education, gender awareness, indigenous medical knowledge, interethnic community bridge building, and more. Each topical series will be comprised of several lecture events held at regular intervals that will bring together speakers from diverse national and disciplinary backgrounds to examine and share experiences on the selected issues at hand. The lectures are free and open to the public. A series publication will be produced and distributed.

Trace Foundation has been working with Tibetan communities in China for 15 years, funding and implementing projects in cooperation with local counterparts and individuals in culture, education, healthcare, and rural development. In the course of its work, the Foundation has gained much knowledge and experience and fostered a diverse network of outstanding individuals dedicated to the study and work in Tibetan communities in China. In launching this lecture series, the Foundation aims to create a forum for exchange and discussion between Tibetan specialists and international and other regional, disciplinary, and professional experts on a variety of issues. It is the hope of the Foundation that such a forum will lead to greater insights, cooperation, and new activities in the work of all those involved.



For upcoming lectures series events, please check our website.

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