

41st KUASS

(Kyoto University African Studies Seminar)

Writing for speaking: The development of N|uu educational materials

Date: October 9, 2015 (Fri), 15:00 – 17:00

Venue: Small Meeting Room 1, Inamori Center 3F, Kawabata Campus, Kyoto University.

Title: Writing for speaking: The development of N|uu educational materials

Presenter: Dr. Sheena Shah (Postdoctoral Fellow at the Centre for African Language Diversity (CALDi), University of Cape Town / Visiting Scholar at the Graduate School of Asian and African Area Studies (ASAFAS), Kyoto University)

Abstract: N|uu is one of the most endangered languages in South Africa. Today, three elderly sisters, all residing in the vicinity of Upington (Northern Cape province, South Africa), are the last fluent speakers of N|uu. Hanna Koper is the oldest among them, followed by Griet Seekoei, and Katrina Esau, also known as “Ouma Geelmeid”, is the youngest (aged 83). Ouma Geelmeid and her granddaughter, Claudia du Plessis, have been engaged in teaching N|uu to children of the #Khomani community for the last 10 years. Since 2012, the Centre for African Language Diversity (CALDi) at the University of Cape Town has been supporting these teaching efforts through the establishment of a practical N|uu orthography and the development of educational materials. Alphabet charts, posters and a N|uu reader are outcomes of the joint efforts between members of the #Khomani community and CALDi scholars. The presentation reviews achievements and challenges in the collaboration between community members and CALDi scholars in their efforts to revitalize the N|uu language and discusses how the educational materials are currently being used at Ouma Geelmeid’s school.

Co-organized by the JSPS Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (A) "Cultural and ecological foundations of education and learning: An anthropological study on rhythm, imitation, and exchange (Akira Takada)"