

Organizers:

*The Halliday Centre for Intelligent Applications of Language Studies &
Department of Chinese, Translation and Linguistics*



香港城市大學
City University
of Hong Kong



The Halliday Centre for
Intelligent Applications of Language Studies
韓禮德語言研究智能應用中心

Occasional Seminar Series

**Endangered Languages:
Causalities in the Era of Globalization**

Date : 13 November 2006 (Monday)

Time : 4:30 – 5:30 pm

Venue : B7603 (Lift 3, 7/F, Blue Zone), Academic Building, CityU

Presented by Dr. Matthias Gerner

Abstract:

An *endangered language* is a language with so few remaining speakers that it is in danger of falling out of use. If the last speaker has died, it becomes a dead or extinct language. The dramatic rise of the number of endangered languages nowadays is a byproduct of the phenomenon of globalization whereby pressure is put on small communities through global trade and the print and television media. Some linguists argue that at least 3,000 of the world's ca. 6,800 languages will be lost during this century. In this seminar, Dr. Matthias Gerner will give a comprehensive survey of all the issues relating to endangered languages.

Bio-sketch:

Dr. Matthias Gerner studied and researched at several institutions in Paris, Beijing, Melbourne and Mainz. He has published three books and numerous research articles on linguistic as well as mathematical topics in a wide range of journals. His current research interests focus mainly on describing extreme properties of isolating languages from the perspective of general theories in syntax and semantics. He is now Assistant Professor at the Department of Chinese, Translation and Linguistics, City University of Hong Kong, lecturing on semantics, pragmatics, syntax, and typology. He is also a core member of The Halliday Centre for Intelligent Applications of Language Studies.

All are welcome

Enquiry: 3442 6604 (The Halliday Centre for Intelligent Applications of Language Studies)