

CRMSE Distinguished Lecturer

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May 4, 4:00 to 6:00 pm PDT

4:00 - 4:30: Reception

4:30 - 5:30: Talk by Dr. Brown

5:30 - 6:00: Q&A and Closing

Location: Parma Payne Goodall Alumni Center, SDSU

The Meaning Beyond the Words: How Language, Race and Culture Impact Science Teaching and Learning

This presentation explores how race, culture and language intersect to create the condition of contemporary learning. For years, research on the language of classrooms explored how the way we say things impacts students' sense of belonging. Despite this research, Science and Technology Education have failed to adequately explore how issues of race, language, and culture shape the outcomes of teaching and learning in science. Through a sequence of research, this presentation explores the theoretical and pragmatic aspects of this dilemma. From a theoretical perspective, the talk will explore the Language-Identity dilemma. As students learn, the way academic language is taught to them can present a cognitive and cultural conflict. From a cognitive perspective, if science is taught without respect for the implications of how language is learned, students can be misunderstood and misunderstand the teacher's complex discourse. From a cultural conflict perspective, students may feel they are cultural outsiders when the language of the classroom positions them as outsiders. The presentation provides an overview of a series of qualitative and quantitative experiments that document the realities of this complex interaction.

Zoom link for virtual attendees and registration for in-person attendance: <https://forms.gle/yycETnzZjk1AUELY6>

In-person attendees will need to comply with SDSU's current COVID policies, including wearing facial coverings (click to read the current policies).

Questions: crmse@sdsu.edu

