

International Linguistic Association

Monthly Lecture Series

Saturday, November 2, 2024. 11 AM – 12:00 PM (EST) on Zoom

Dr. Maryam Borjian
Rutgers University

At the Crossroads: Caspian Languages through a Sociolinguistic Lens

Abstract:

Gilaki and Mazandarani, as well as Central Caspian, constitute the Caspian family of languages—spoken in a continuum along the southern shore of the Caspian Sea by more than five million people. While these languages have not developed standard written forms, they all enjoy a rich oral literature. This paper tackles selected topics in Caspian sociolinguistics that remain understudied by scholars. They include a range of issues: the presence of Gilaki and Mazandarani in Persian media and cinema; attitudes toward these minority languages within the national context; ethnolinguistic identities as expressed by Caspian writers and poets; Gilaki and Mazandarani Wikipedias as major online platforms to express ethnic identities of younger speakers; and language loss not only in absolute terms but also regarding lexical obsolescence due to a paradigm shift in the era of globalization. We identify contributing factors relating to the coexistence of the Caspian and Persian languages as compared with the situation of other minority languages in contemporary Iran.

Date & Time: November 2, 2024 at 11:00 AM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

ZOOM LINK: <https://bmcc-cuny.zoom.us/j/87274732275>

Meeting ID: 872 7473 2275

Passcode: 468694

Dial by your location

Find your local number: <https://bmcc-cuny.zoom.us/u/kqph6Oskw>

Visit our **ILA website** for upcoming lectures: <https://www.ilaword.org/index.aspx>

Follow us on **Facebook** <https://www.facebook.com/interlinguistic>

X [@interlinguists](#)

and **Youtube:** <https://www.youtube.com/@interlinguists>

About the Speaker

Dr. Maryam Borjian



Maryam Borjian is a professor in the Department of African, Middle Eastern, and South Asian Languages and Literatures at Rutgers University. Her research focuses on sociolinguistics, multilingualism, minority languages, language and globalization, and Persian language and culture. She is the author of *English in Post-Revolutionary Iran, Language and Globalization: An Autoethnographic Approach*, and *Remaking Multilingualism*, a festschrift in honor of Ofelia Garcia (co-edited with Bahar Otcu-Grillman).

More information about Maryam Borjian [here](#).