

# Forensic Linguistics Seminar

hosted by the *International Linguistic Association*

Friday, April 5, 2024

2:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Eastern Time (US and Canada)

on Zoom

Lecture/Workshop with

**Dr. Shonna Trinch**, *Professor, John Jay College, CUNY*



## **What Discrepancies Say in Victim-Witness Testimony and Police Confessions**

In this workshop we will examine the creation and use of discrepancy in two types of legal narratives of rape and domestic abuse: victim-witness testimony and confessions given by presumed suspects. In our workshop we will study how discrepancies arise in legal storytelling as well as the different types of discrepancies that occur when tellers and their tales move from one social context to another. And finally, we will discuss what discrepancies mean in confessions vs. victim-testimony for legal actors, adjudicators, juries, and spectators. Data for this session will come from a collection of materials from a field project conducted more than a decade ago and the tragic story of the boys who were wrongfully convicted of the 1989 rape of the Central Park Jogger.

**Professor Trinch** researches and publishes books and articles on topics ranging from rape, intimate-partner violence and narrative to Brooklyn's gentrification, urban redevelopment, and messages on storefront signs. Her courses include Forensic Linguistics, Sex and Culture, Language and Culture, Ethnographic Writing: Writing for a Multicultural World, and Gender, Justice a Global Perspective: Seeing Rape, and Interviewing for Lawyers. Professor Trinch's book, *Latinas' Narratives of Domestic Abuse* examines how discrepancies arise in women's stories of violence. Her latest book on gentrification entitled, *What the Sings Say: Language, Gentrification and Place-Making in Brooklyn* (Vanderbilt UP, 2020), explores storefronts as technologies that take space and make it into "place" for diverse and not-so-diverse groups of people.

For more information: <https://www.jjay.cuny.edu/faculty/shonna-trinch>