Mapping Atlanta’s Linguistic Landscape

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5:00 - 6:30 pm
Modern Languages Building
Room 201

RSVP for a meal with Sarah Shortt at sshortt@emory.edu by January 30, 2017

Atlanta is increasingly seen as a vibrant multilingual and multicultural metropolitan area. According to the latest US census data, at least 146 different languages are spoken in the metro Atlanta area and 17 percent of the metro area population aged 5 or over speak a language other than English at home. Nevertheless, the visibility of many of these languages to visitors and residents alike remains negligible.

Drawing on existing projects, such as the Language Capital Project in Tucson, Arizona, the Languages of New Haven in Connecticut, and the Multilingual Manchester Project in Manchester, England, that have attempted to capture the linguistic and cultural vitality of particular locations, this workshop will be an initial attempt to depict the linguistic diversity of Atlanta. After an introduction into the basics of Google Maps, workshop participants will collaborate on creating a map that begins to identify:

- places where languages other than English are spoken, can be overheard, or where the written languages are visible;
- places where languages other than English are taught or learned;
- places where languages other than English used to be heard, seen, or taught;
- places where languages other than English are not audible or visible but are felt, imagined, or hoped for;
- places in Atlanta that have appeared prominently in literature, song, film, or other media in a language other than English.