



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA
COLLEGE OF HUMANITIES

Spanish & Portuguese

Language Research Talks

with Dr. Sonja Lanehart

Organized by the Hispanic and Lusophone Linguistics Working Group (HLLWG)

Words Matter: Language, Linguistics, and Race



Words matters. And, as we say at my house, all words are made up. In this presentation, we will explore the intersections of language, linguistics, and race from a social justice and equity lens. We will talk about words that are intertwined with the birth of the United States of America and their weight in the midst of an arguably second nadir since the first that began with the end of Reconstruction in 1877. My goal is to begin or continue – depending on where you situate yo urself – this discussion about our roles and responsibilities as humanistic social scientists in the midst of #BlackLivesMatter and a reconciliation with African American Language and linguistic justice, as April Baker-Bell (2020) contends, and ‘caste,’ as Isabel Wilkerson (2020) contends.

Dr. SONJA LANEHART is Professor of Linguistics, Teaching, Learning, and Sociocultural Studies, and Africana Studies at the University of Arizona. Her scholarship focuses on language, literacy, and education in African American communities; language and identity; sociolinguistics; and Black education from Black Feminisms, Critical Race Theory, and Intersectionality perspectives. She is currently a member of the Executive Committee for the Linguistic Society of America, and was named an LSA Fellow in 2021.

**Thursday, February 24
3:00 - 4:00 pm (MST)
Zoom ID: 878 6126 3333**