

Free and open to the public

So How Many Languages Are

HINDI-URDU

Anyway?

हिन्दुस्तानी
ہندوستانی

May 3, 2013 · 4-5:30pm
2520B University Capitol Centre

For almost two centuries, scholars have tried to clarify the relations between two language varieties commonly referred to as “Hindi” and “Urdu,” sometimes lumped together under the hyphenated rubric of “Hindi-Urdu.” This talk will describe the complex of historical, cultural, and political factors that have fed this debate and how these factors have been reflected in grammars, dictionaries, pedagogical materials, and linguistic studies. It will also explore the real-world consequences of these terminological issues, whether in second-language classrooms or in formulating language policies for modern nation states.

Michael Shapiro (Ph.D., University of Chicago) is professor of Hindi in the Department of Asian Languages and Literature and adjunct professor in the Department of Linguistics, University of Washington, Seattle. His research and teaching is related to the languages, linguistics, literatures, and cultures of North India. He has published books and articles on the sociolinguistics of the South Asian subcontinent, the grammar and history of the Hindi language, twentieth-century Hindi literature, and the language and rhetoric of pre-modern North Indian religious texts, especially the Sikh scriptures.



This event is sponsored by the South Asian Studies Program in International Programs and the Department of Linguistics.

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