



**SANDRIZONA**



**Spring 2009**

*Where the Desert Meets the Ocean*

**May 11, 2009**

*Linguistic Anthropology Lab,  
340 SSRB (formerly CRB)*

**Keynote presentation by Norma Mendoza-Denton**

**1:00p-2:30p**

**“Stance Triangulation  
among Latin American Immigrants to Spain”**

**and “The Biomechanics of Language and Gesture” (with David Raichlen)**

The business of stance is tricky when one's ascribed status can vary widely within a group. Such is the case with Latin American immigrants to Spain, who variously face stiff visa regulations, and discrimination if they are indigenous (typically from Ecuador, Bolivia, or Peru); while they may find a welcoming reception if they are fair-skinned (typically from Argentina or Chile). Whiteness, indigeneity, kinship claim documentation, and linguistic stereotypes all play a part in how recent immigrants talk about their experience in Spain. Using DuBois' (2005) notion of the stance triangle and Kockleman's (2004) ideas on subjectivity and stance, I explore Latin American migrants' delicate positioning of themselves in a field of valued and devalued others. Drawing on interviews and participant observation conducted among Latin Americans and Spaniards in Valencia, Spain in 2004, I show how both Latin Americans and Spaniards use the details of Spanish accents and their phonetic implementation to lay claim to different stylistic personae (Zhang 2005, 2008).

The second portion of the presentation highlights new research that the Biomechanics of Language and Gesture group has been conducting at the University of Arizona. Our research represents a novel collaboration between a linguistic anthropologist (Mendoza-Denton) and a biological anthropologist (Raichlen). We utilize full-body optical motion capture cameras that record the motion of retro-reflective markers attached on the body, yielding images of the markers' positions in 3-D space. We highlight some of our group's projects, and present some preliminary data on the relationship between speech and breathing among interlocutors with varying degrees of familiarity reading texts of varying degrees of difficulty.

*Norma Mendoza-Denton is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Arizona, and author of Homegirls: Language and Cultural Practice among Latina Youth Gangs (2008).*

*David Raichlen is an Assistant Professor of Biological Anthropology at the University of Arizona.*

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