

LHA5109: *Language, Dialogue and Becoming in Adult Education*

This special topics course explores adult education through the lens of three conceptual frames: language, dialogue, and becoming. It explores adult education as a field of study, an activity, and a way people come together to build possibilities. We consider adult education as meaning making where culturally and linguistically dynamic people, including people who migrate and cross borders, who experience racialization, and who communicate in multilingual/multidialectal ways, to interact productively and creatively. This course considers this approach to adult education through a feminist, critical sociolinguistic model that foregrounds emergence as well as the agency and capacities of historically marginalized members of social groups as creators of their own worlds. We consider how power works in adult education, paying attention to intersections of privilege and marginalization, and question how people in power define—and at times cannot define—what is “good,” “right,” and “just” in these contexts. Understanding the ways language, identity, and self-determination interact in adult education leads us to recast this undertaking as creative and humanizing for culturally and linguistically dynamic students and teachers alike.