



The National Museum of Language
Amelia C. Murdoch
Speaker Series

**Black American Sign Language:
The Sociohistorical Foundation**

Presented by
Dr. Ceil Lucas and Dr. Carolyn McCaskill

This presentation is about the variety of American Sign Language known as Black ASL and used by Black signers. The socio-historical reality that made for the emergence of this variety will be described and examples of the linguistic features that characterize this variety will be discussed.

Dr. Ceil Lucas, Professor of Linguistics from Gallaudet University Dr. Lucas' research interests center around the sociolinguistics of Deaf communities, including issues of sociolinguistic variation within signed languages, issues of bilingualism and language contact, language policy and planning, and language attitudes. She is also interested in the structure of sign language discourse. She is co-director of a project funded by the National Science Foundation on sociolinguistic variation in American Sign Language as well as another National Science Foundation funded project on Black ASL (2007-2011).

Dr. Carolyn McCaskill, Associate Professor from Gallaudet University Dr. McCaskill's research interests center around multicultural issues in the Deaf community, and Black Deaf history community, and culture. Dr. McCaskill is a recipient of the Thomas and Julia Mayes Award 2005. She also was selected as a Diversity Fellow in the Provost Office in 2006.

**Date: Sunday,
May 15, 2011
Time: 2:00 –
4:00pm**

**Place:
National
Museum of Language
7100 Baltimore Avenue,
Suite 202
College Park, MD 20740**

**Free Admission;
Reservations
required due to
limited space**

Reserve by email: events@languageuseum.org
Or by phone: 410-707-9307
For directions, see <http://languageuseum.org>