



## Colloquium: Law and Language Policy in Education

Speaker:

E. Annamalai, Visiting Professor, Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations,  
University of Chicago

Date / Time:

September 4, 2014 - 2:00pm - 3:30pm

Venue:

10th Floor Auditorium, Pixel A

Abstract:

Language Policy in Education is concerned with language(s) to be learned by students and the language(s) through which they learn other subjects. The policy is made by the government keeping in mind its economic, social, cultural and linguistic goals. The citizens may have their own goals and language choice to achieve them and their policy may not coincide with the policy of the government. They or their representatives may try to challenge the policy through political or legal means. The courts look at the legal maintainability of the policy from the point of view of fundamental rights of citizens given to them by the Constitution, which include the citizen's right to education. The obligations of the state and the rights of the people may be found by them to be in conflict. The talk will describe the way in which the courts come to see a conflict and will examine if the conflict is real or is a result of an ideologically based interpretation of the Constitution. It will show that the solution to the apparent conflict lies in a proper understanding of language pedagogy divorced from language politics.

A Note on the Speaker:

E. Annamalai, Director Emeritus, Central Institute of Indian Languages, Mysore; Visiting Professor, Department of South Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago

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