

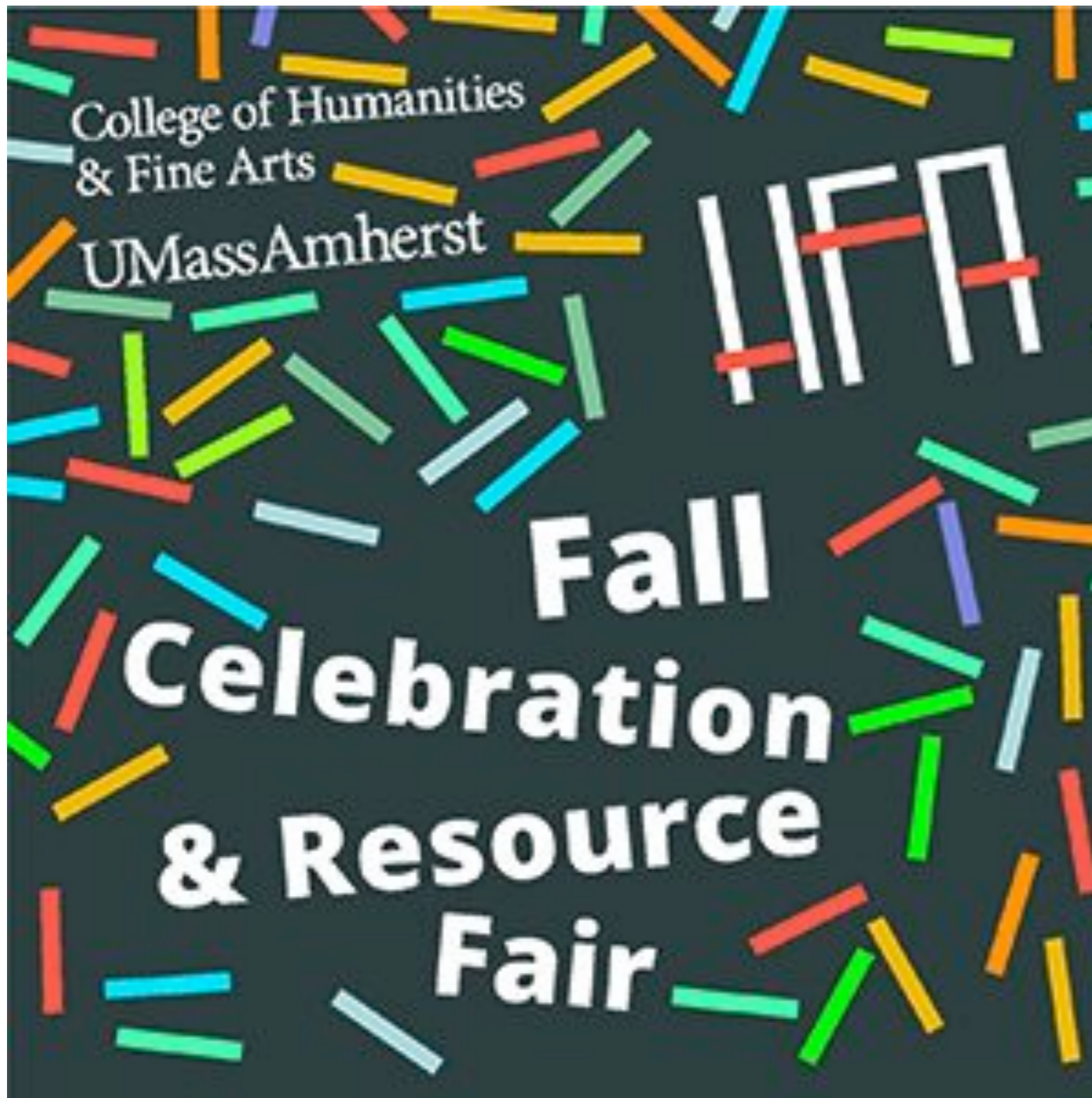


**TECHNOLOGY
FOR
LANGUAGE REVITALIZATION**



EVENTS





- South College Commons
- Sep 12, 2019 from 1-4:30 pm
- Learn about internships and campus resources
- Food?

HERE TO CAREER SERIES

- 6 week career and internship-skills workshop series
- Free dinner at each session!
- \$20 gift card if you go to all 6
- Wednesdays from September 25-October 30, 5:30-7:30pm
- Topics:
 - Resumes & Cover Letters
 - Interview Tips
 - Interview Practice and Salary Negotiation
 - Searching for Jobs & Internships
 - Connecting Professionally & Online
 - Creating an Action Plan

EMAIL ETIQUETTE



EMAIL STRESS

← Tweet



Sonflower
@madissonriley

Me:
"Professor LastName,

Very professional body of email using carefully crafted
grammar and correct punctuation.

Sincerely,
MyFullName"

Professor:
"K thx. Learn pg 25 in the book.
-papa joe
Sent from my iPhone"

1:53 PM · Jan 24, 2019 · [Twitter for iPhone](#)



Julia 🏠
@jjjetplane16

Me: *takes 50 minutes crafting an email*
My professor: "Hi Jessica,"

4:25 PM · Apr 2, 2017 · [Twitter Web Client](#)



nap king cole
@lms_if_u_lms

me: *spends an hour rewording and proofreading an email
before sending*
professor:



[Redacted]@ncsu.edu>
to me, Jordan, Justin, [Redacted] Hauser

Okay

Sent from my Android phone



GOOD

To: professor@umass.edu ▾

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: extension for homework 2

From: Carolyn Anderson – carolynander@umass.e...

Hi Carolyn,

Could I have an extension on Homework 2? I've come down with a cold and I'm worried about falling behind.

Thanks!

UMass Minutestudentj

NOT GREAT

To: professor@umass.edu ▾

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: NEED A BIG FAVOR

From: Carolyn Anderson – carolynander@umass.edu

Howdy partner!

Can you do that thing for me that you promised after class on Wednesday last week? I'd really appreciate it!!!!

The thing is that I really need for it to be done soon, please do it as soon as possible. Also I would really appreciate it if you told me my grade. I'll see you in class again on Wednesday! Oh actually not next week though, I'm going to be out of town.

Hugs,
UMass Minutestudent, Class of 2024

LANGUAGE SURVEY RESULTS



HOUSEHOLD USE

- What languages were spoken in your household when you were a child (ages 0-6)?
- What languages are currently spoken in your household (or in your parents' household)?

PROFICIENCY

- How well do you feel that you speak each of the languages that you learned as a child?
- Can you read and write in your first language(s)?

FAMILY AND FRIENDS

- How often do you use the language in each of the following situations:
 - In conversation with family members
 - In conversation with friends
 - In text messages with family members
 - In text messages with friends

FORMAL VERSUS INFORMAL SETTINGS

- How often do you use that language in each of the following situations:
 - In an academic setting
 - On social media

MEDIA AND ENTERTAINMENT

- How often do you use that language in each of the following situations:
 - When watching TV
 - When listening to music
 - When reading books for fun

READING RESPONSES





MCCULLOUGH (2019)



Like the big collaborative projects of the internet, such as Wikipedia and Firefox, like the decentralized network of websites and machines that make up the internet itself, language is a network, a web. Language is the ultimate participatory democracy. To put it in technological terms, language is humanity's most spectacular open source project.

When we know language as a network, we realize that any portrait of it is incomplete, and that's a marvelous thing. Many webpages are dynamic, generated only as we reach for them by searching for or posting something brand-new. So, too, is the creative capacity of language greater than its entire recorded history. Any one of us can coin a word or compose a sentence that has never been said before, and it now exists in the language as soon as we utter it, whether it winks in and out for a single moment or whether it catches on and endures in the minds of people yet unborn. When you lay a book down and come back to it, you expect all its ink to stay where you left it, but the only languages that stay unchanging are the dead ones. When you step away from a living language, or a network made of human beings, you don't expect it to fall silent and still without you.

A language with people but no books is a living language that always create books, but a language with books and no people exists only in pale, shadowed, ghostly form.

We know that language as a human ability is so very old—some hundred thousand years older than any form of writing—and what that means is that language is incredibly durable. We know that we've met many societies without any form of writing system, but we've never met any without spoken or signed language at all. Furthermore, linguistic complexity is unrelated to the complexity of the material culture it comes from. Language has existed with or without all kinds of technology—writing, agriculture, aqueducts, electricity, industrialization, automobiles, airplanes, cameras, photocopiers, televisions—and the internet is no exception. In fact, language's only known predator is other people: many languages have been stamped out or imposed on others through war or conquest.

TAKE-AWAY POINTS

- Language is dynamic: it is always changing
- Linguists don't take notions of "purity" seriously: all language that is used is a valid object of study
- There is diversity within languages as well as among languages: English is evolving into new Englishes all the time.
- Many languages have never been written, but this doesn't make them less complex or important
- Language doesn't need technology to survive (it just needs users), but technology impacts and affects language use

THOUGHTS ON THE INTERNET AND MINORITY LANGUAGES

- How often do you see languages other than English online?
- What languages do you see?
- Wikipedia exercise



ROSENBAUM (2017)



“It’s about fixing what happened,” Baird said of her life’s work. “It’s about making whole what was broken.”

Languages don't live in dictionaries; a language is truly alive only when spoken in a community. To Baird and her co-speakers, Wampanoag is a living being, to be nurtured and protected. [...] "You can't say I reclaimed anything," says Baird. "It's not humanly possible for one person to reclaim something that's social in nature."

*Baird never speaks of Wampanoag as having “died.” Instead, she prefers to say it was **asleep or lost**. But it hadn’t wandered away. **What happened to Wampanoag was an act of violence.***

When you lose a language, you lose a culture, intellectual wealth, a work of art. It's like dropping a bomb on a museum, the Louvre.

— Kenneth Hale

DISCUSSION POINTS

- The Wampanoag tribe protects access to Wôpanâak —————→
This is common in many North American indigenous communities (because of past abuse / appropriation of indigenous culture and knowledge)
- *A linguistics professor [...] was pleased to report that an informant had extracted from “unintelligent and aged persons” in Mashpee “at least twenty-nine isolated words of the old speech.”* —————→
Linguists are complicit in the harm done to indigenous communities and their languages!
- *After all, the town’s lawyers argued, they didn’t even have a language of their own.* —————→ Language loss has multifaceted repercussions for communities.
- *The team members on the Wôpanâak Language Reclamation Project found that they had to construct new words for items new to the environment, such as “telephone,” “computer,” or “texting.”*