Tearing Down the Tower of Babel
with Jennifer Hamano, 6:00 - 7:30 pm at 28 East 35th St.

Schedule of topics

**July 15  What is language?**
- How many languages are there in the world?
- Which languages are the most widely spoken?
- What are the parts of language?
- How are the world's languages different from each other?

**July 22  Language mixing**
- Does borrowing foreign words degrade a language?
- What's a Creole, and how does it develop?
- What is "Spanglish" and why do people speak it?
- Should we discourage people from code-switching or mixing languages?

**July 29  Bad grammar, broken English, and language varieties**
- What's the difference between languages, dialects, and accents?
- Why is it that some speakers of Spanish and Portuguese understand each other, but not all Chinese speakers understand each other?
- Who decides what the "rules of language" are?
- Why do we follow those rules?

**August 5  Who is a bilingual?**
- Are bilinguals equally fluent in both/all their languages?
- Do you need to be able to read, write, speak, and understand a language to be considered proficient?
- Can a bilingual forget his or her native language?
- Does the presence of two languages cause or worsen language disorders in children and adults?

**August 12  Language and cognitive development**
- How is language organized in the brain?
- Is there a cognitive advantage or disadvantage to being bilingual?
- Does bilingualism delay child language development?
- Why is it harder to learn a new language as an adult?

**August 19  Language controversies, myths and misconceptions**
- Is texting killing the English language?
- Does language influence the way we think?
- How can we support bilingual kids struggling in school?
- Why did the Oakland school district want to teach kids Ebonics?

Information and resources at [http://chamano.commons.gc.cuny.edu/public-speaking/](http://chamano.commons.gc.cuny.edu/public-speaking/)
Hosted by the Community Church of New York [http://www.ccny.org/](http://www.ccny.org/)