



Apr 18th, 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM

Language Ideology and Racism: The Case of Middle-Class Latinos in Bloomington, Illinois

Daniel W. Burke, '09
Illinois Wesleyan University

Christina Isabelli, Faculty Advisor
Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc>

Burke, '09, Daniel W. and Isabelli, Faculty Advisor, Christina, "Language Ideology and Racism: The Case of Middle-Class Latinos in Bloomington, Illinois" (2009). *John Wesley Powell Student Research Conference*. 1.

<https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/jwprc/2009/oralpres4/1>

This is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

Oral Presentation O4.1

**LANGUAGE IDEOLOGY AND RACISM: THE CASE OF
MIDDLE-CLASS LATINOS IN BLOOMINGTON, ILLINOIS**

Daniel W. Burke and Christina Isabelli*
Hispanic Studies Department, Illinois Wesleyan University

Language ideology asserts that languages are imbued with certain social, political, and moral values. In the US, many scholars have suggested that the English-speaking majority uses language ideology to reinforce racial, political, and economic domination of Latinos. The present study seeks to replicate the study of Cobas and Feagin (2008) “Language Oppression and Resistance: The Case of Middle Class Latinos in the United States.” Using interviews with several middle-class Latinos working at State Farm in Bloomington, IL, this study documents their personal experiences with perceived language oppression. By extrapolating these case studies of Latinos in Bloomington, IL, to the larger body of literature on language ideology and racism, this work continues the conversation on how language ideology in a Midwestern city of the US may maintain racial (in)equality and if the preservation of the Spanish language and culture of Spanish-speakers is threatened.

Cobas, Jose A., and Joe R. Feagin, 2008. The Case of Middle Class Latinos in the United States. Ethnic and Racial Studies 31.2: 390-410.