The languages of religious institutions in New York City: Integrating Discovery-Based Research into the Linguistics 100 Curriculum

Principal Investigator: Sharon Avni

Proposal Summary: I propose a qualitative research project for Language and Culture (LIN100), an introductory course that focuses on human communication and the importance of linguistic choices in society. This project provides community college students with a set of methodological tools and instructional support to develop critical thinking and independent learning skills. Specifically, it entails students doing individualized case studies in which they collect and analyze spoken and written language use at religious sites in New York City.

Incorporating discovery-based research into the LIN100 curriculum accomplishes three objectives. First, it motivates students as they conduct parallel projects of personal interest. Second, it promotes high-impact and reflective learning, as students learn about the practical, symbolic, and affective power of language in their own lives and communities. Finally, it offers students a taste of authentic research practices, and thereby demystifies what research is, how it is conducted, and how it contributes to the construction of knowledge.

For more information, please contact:
Sharon Avni
savni@bmcc.cuny.edu