

Language Reclamation Through Dictionary-Building Along the Brazil-Bolivia Border

Joshua Birchall, Assistant Professor, UNM Linguistics Department

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Join LAII for a discussion about language reclamation on the Brazil-Bolivia border led by Professor Birchall.

The Moré and Kuyubim communities each live on different sides of the Guaporé/Iténez River that forms a border between Brazil and Bolivia, and despite sharing a traditional language and having starkly different colonial histories, they are both shifting to the dominant languages of the countries they live in. This talk discusses how the production of a first dictionary of this language has helped support larger community efforts of language reclamation and cultural revival.

Joshua Birchall is an Assistant Professor in the UNM Linguistics Department. He is a specialist in Amazonian languages and linguistic typology. For the last 15 years, he has been working with a number of communities in the southwest Amazon to document and describe their languages.



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