



SRII AUTUMN LECTURE SERIES 2020

LANGUAGE AND COMMUNICATION

October 20, 2020, 19:00

Online: Zoom

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Struggling Against Language Shift: Kurdish Language Activism in Turkey

What do we know of the ongoing language shift from Kurdish to Turkish? Should Kurdish (Kurmanji) be considered a vulnerable language despite a community of native speakers counted in the millions, Kurdish language publications, print, broadcast and social media as well as university level Kurdish language education? What has been done to reverse this language shift (RLS) and how effective have these efforts been? What is the situation now, five years after the collapse of the peace talks and four years after the attempted coup d'etat? This presentation by Anu Leinonen, a post-doc researcher at the Finnish Institute in the Middle East (FIME), attempts to provide answers to these questions, based on Joshua Fishman's influential Graded Inter-generational Dislocation Scale (GIDS) introduced in his famous work *Reversing Language Shift: Theoretical and Empirical Foundations of Assistance to Threatened Languages* (1991), and a series of interviews and informal discussions with Kurdish language activists.

Admission only after registration to event@sri.org.tr !