

Gorski Lecture

presented by the Center for Language Acquisition

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Luke Plonsky

is Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics at Northern Arizona University, where he teaches courses in second language acquisition and research methods. His work in these areas has resulted in over 60 articles, book chapters, and books. Luke is Associate Editor of *Studies in Second Language Acquisition*, Managing Editor of *Foreign Language Annals*, Co-Editor of de Gruyter Mouton's Series on Language Acquisition, and Co-Director of the IRIS Database (iris-database.org). In addition to prior appointments at Georgetown and University College London, Luke has taught in Japan, The Netherlands, Spain, and Puerto Rico.

Tuesday, January 29, 2019
2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Foster Auditorium*

Luke Plonsky

Associate Professor of Applied Linguistics
Northern Arizona University

“Methodological Reform as an Ethical Imperative in Applied Linguistics”

There is a methodological reform movement currently taking root in applied linguistics (Byrnes, 2013). And although there are many arguments supporting such a movement, the most compelling is, in my view, of an ethical nature. In this paper I discuss some of the initiatives—ranging from empirical to corporate—currently underway that seek to examine and improve the state of our science. As part of this discussion, I also present a study that complements the body of synthetic evidence of research practices by asking applied linguists about their engagement with a range of questionable research practices (QRPs). Among other infelicities, the results reveal widespread fraud in applied linguistics. I discuss this finding, as well as those for other QRPs, and possible causes. I also address the apparently very serious need for methodological reform as a matter of theoretical, practical, instructional, and yes—of course—ethical urgency.



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