

Going beyond ethics: Sustainability in linguistic fieldwork

Sami Honkasalo
University of Helsinki

Keywords: *linguistic fieldwork, sustainability, ethics*

Today's talk addresses sustainability in language documentation and description through fieldwork. In the past two decades, ethical concerns and the needs of the community have received increasing attention in fieldwork, highlighting the changing relationship between the researcher and the community. Although this development is positive and ethics remain at the core of fieldwork, future fieldwork must strive to go beyond ethics to ensure the sustainability of our practices and the long-term effects of the research projects. Sustainability belongs to each stage of fieldwork, including project planning, data collection, and dissemination of the research outputs. At present, short lengths of field projects and frequently lacking documentation of the fieldwork process itself pose some challenges for sustainability. The talk will consequently conclude with suggestions on how to improve the existing fieldwork practices in the pursuit to create enduring records of all linguistic forms spoken on our planet, most of which are becoming increasingly endangered.