

# ***‘Applied Linguistic Anthropology’ in Action: Language & Social Justice Projects and Praxis***

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“Language is implicated in and can be mobilized for social justice.”

## **APPLIED LINGUISTIC ANTHROPOLOGY (ALA) FRAMEWORK:**

- **What Is:** Identifying a social justice issue, Centering Language [Lexicon]  
*Language and social justice issue (LSJI) - recognition and representation*
- **What Is:** Reflection, Noticing, Observation, Narrative, Positionalities and Commitments, Critique
- **What Has Been:** Researching historical background, Deepening “What Is”
- **What Could Be:** Relationships, Aspirations, Actions

Book project: ***Applied Linguistic Anthropology and Social Justice: What Is, What Has Been, and What Could Be*** (Avineri & Baquedano-López, Routledge forthcoming)

## **Language and Social Justice Issues (LSJIs):**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Language about illegality (Drop the I-Word campaign)</li><li>• “Language Gap” discourses</li><li>• U.S. Census language categories (“Language Use and Linguistic Isolation”)</li><li>• Sports teams mascots and naturalized racism towards Native Peoples of North America</li><li>• Language in the criminal justice system</li><li>• Social media representations of racialized groups</li><li>• Gendered language</li><li>• Environmental justice &amp; language</li><li>• Indigenous language interpreting and language access</li><li>• Heritage language socialization</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Disability discourses (“person first” language)</li><li>• The discourse of reproductive rights</li><li>• Noun endings that are not gendered, such as Latin@/x/e</li><li>• Indigenous and endangered languages and the dominance of English</li><li>• Media coverage and discourse in the political sphere</li><li>• Race and language (how/why the language of some groups is devalued)</li><li>• Access and participation of Deaf communities in society</li><li>• Semiotic rights (school dress codes that become tied to groups or social organizations)</li></ul>
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## **PAY ATTENTION - TENSION - SET INTENTION (Avineri, 2023)**

### **Tension 1:**

Objectivity // Subjectivity

### **Tension 2:**

Institutional Positionality // Individual Identities

### **Tension 3:**

Complexity // Clarity [More sensitivity to these issues = more pedagogical complexity]

### **Tension 4:**

Urgency of social justice issues // Slowing down

### **Tension 5:**

Advocating for issues // Being (or not being) part of the group impacted

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## **References**

- Avineri, Netta, Laura R. Graham, Eric J. Johnson, Robin Conley Riner, and Jonathan Rosa. (Eds.) (2019). *Language and Social Justice in Practice*. New York and London: Routledge.
- Avineri, Netta, Johnson, Eric J., Perley, Bernard C., Rosa, Jonathan D., & Zentella, Ana Celia (2021). Applied Linguistic Anthropology: Balancing Social Science with Social Change. In Warriner, D. & Miller, E. (Eds.) *Extending applied linguistics for social impact: Cross-disciplinary collaborations in diverse spaces of public inquiry*. Bloomsbury Publishers.
- Avineri, Netta and Danny C. Martinez (Eds.) (2021). "Applied Linguists Cultivating Relationships for Justice: An Aspirational Call to Action" (Introduction to Special Issue 42: 6, 1043-1054). *Applied Linguistics*.