

# Native American Studies Center

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH CAROLINA LANCASTER

## 2021 W. Brent Burgin Lunch and Learn Lecture Series

FRIDAY  
June  
18

All are invited to attend these free monthly lectures which usually cover topics related to local and regional culture and history. To join the program, please send an email to [usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu](mailto:usclnasp@mailbox.sc.edu) and we'll send you the password and ID required to join the meeting.

Virtual Lecture noon to 1:00 p.m.



### “Indigenous Languages of The Southeastern United States – Past and Present”

**Prof. Claudia Y. Heinemann-**

**Priest, USCL Native American Studies**

Around 25 million people are native speakers of the more than 800 surviving Amerind languages. Most of these speakers live in Central and South America, where language use is vigorous. In Canada and the United States, only about half a million native speakers of an Amerindian tongue remain.

Before European contact, the American Southeast had a tremendous diversity of languages. In South Carolina alone at least 26 languages of 4 different language families (Algic, Iroquoian, Muskogean, and Siouan) were spoken. Within 500 years, diseases, wars, migrations, voluntary and forced displacements had all but wiped out many spoken languages. Because of the great resilience of Native peoples, language revival and revitalization efforts continue to this day. This lecture will explore the changing landscapes of Native American Languages of the Southeast from the Past to the Present and beyond.

Please direct any questions or comments regarding the series to Brent Burgin at 803-313-7063 or [wbburgin@sc.edu](mailto:wbburgin@sc.edu). Mr. Burgin welcomes suggestions and ideas for future talks and speakers.

[sc.edu/lancaster/nas](http://sc.edu/lancaster/nas)



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