

**Center for Comparative Immigration Studies, UC San Diego  
Center for the Study of International Migration, UC Los Angeles  
Berkeley Interdisciplinary Migration Initiative, UC Berkeley  
Global Migration Center , UC Davis**

## **Language Brokers: Children of Immigrants Translating Inequality and Belonging for Their Families**

Friday, March 14, 2025 | 12:00PM - 1:30PM Pacific Time

Will be held via Zoom (This Event May Be Recorded)



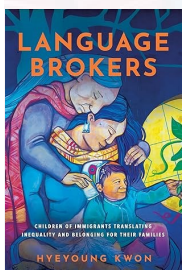
### **Author: Hyeyoung Kwon**

Hyeyoung Kwon is an Assistant Professor of Sociology and a faculty affiliate of the Center for Research on Race and Ethnicity in Society and Asian American Studies at Indiana University (IU), Bloomington. Her expertise includes race, immigration, families, gender, children and youth, and qualitative research. Kwon uses a comparative and intersectional approach to theorize the politics of inclusion and exclusion, exploring how racialized and gendered meanings of immigrants legitimize unequal resource distribution and shape how immigrants navigate different institutions to safeguard their well-being. Her work has appeared in leading journals, including the American Journal of Sociology, Social Problems, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, and Childhood. She is the author of *Language Brokers: Children of Immigrants Translating Inequality and Belonging for Their Family* (Stanford University Press, 2024). Kwon's scholarship has been recognized with several honors from the American Sociological Association, including the 2023 Louis Wirth Best Article Award from the Section on International Migration and the 2023 Scholarly Contribution Award from the Section on Children and Youth. In addition to her research, she has received multiple teaching awards at IU.



### **Discussant: Inmaculada M. García-Sánchez**

Drawing on a multi-method ethnographic approach to learning and schooling, García's research agenda offers a critical dialogue between educational ethnography, linguistic anthropology, and migration studies.



In a nation without a comprehensive safety net, Kwon draws upon interviews with working-class Mexican and Korean bilingual children of immigrants to reveal how their translation work extends far beyond words. Living at the intersection of multiple inequalities, these youth creatively leverage their in-between status to address structural problems, upholding their families' basic social citizenship rights in interactions with teachers, social workers, landlords, doctors, and police officers. In an era of widespread racialized nativism, Kwon underscores how dichotomous and racialized perceptions of “deserving” versus “undeserving” immigrants—woven into everyday interactions and institutional practices—shape the ways immigrant youth strive to cultivate belonging for their families.

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***For more information please email [w2tam@ucsd.edu](mailto:w2tam@ucsd.edu)***