In the context of the emerging communicative geographies of the 21st century (Jacquemet, 2005), our notions of time and space are in need of revision. Previous studies have noted that it would make sense to consider time and space as interlocked in a single dimension also referred to as TimeSpace (Wallerstein 1997: 1; cited in Blommaert 2006).

This paper is based on a sociolinguistic analysis of TimeSpace in networked language practices on the social networking site of Facebook where users draw on a range of resources for digital writing in a multimodal environment for and with a networked audience (Androutsopoulos, 2013). The focus of analysis is placed on Facebook Rest In Peace (RIP) pages acknowledged as 'new' sites for the temporal, spatial and social expansion of death and mourning (Brubaker, Hayes and Dourish, 2012). Looking at practices of sharing understood as 'the entextualization of significant moments for a networked audience’ (Androutsopoulos 2013) on RIP pages that have attracted public and media attention, the paper shows how users semiotize TimeSpace as multiply imagined frames, metaphors and images. It is suggested that through such imaginings users transform grief in a mediated and widely circulatable form that extends given notions of language, local community and public place.

References:


Keywords: timespace, grief, entextualization.