

Languaculture Strudel
A Nonlinear Blend of Complexity, Ethnography and Linguistics

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The presenter, a linguistic anthropologist by training, has spent the last several years working with the theory of complex adaptive systems, for the most part on applications related to epidemiology and organizational development. This presentation brings his past work on “languaculture” into the blend, work reflected in *Language Shock: Understanding the Culture of Conversation*. First a summary of traditional ethnographic logic, the social research precursor to this “new science,” will be presented. Three specific languacultural topics will then be discussed. In the first, based on presenter’s recent article in *Language and Society*, the concept of “fractal” will show how to link interview transcripts with the global issues relevant to an interviewee’s topic of discussion. In the second, based on work in process, organizational interests in “story” as vehicles for complex adaptive change will be tied to the robust tradition of narrative analysis in linguistic anthropology. The third, drawing from experiences described in *Language Shock*, will examine second languaculture acquisition as a complex system, both in the specific sense of second-language learning and in the broader sense of intercultural communication. The common thread in all three topics will be the framing of common ground between the insights of complexity theory and the tradition of research and practice in socially and culturally diverse societies.