The Center for East Asian Studies, Department of Liberal Studies, and Linguistics Program present

Dr. Robert Sanders
Komatsu University

“To mark or not to mark:

Just how similar are Chinese dialects

in this regard”?

This presentation reports on an experimental study of the frequency of formal passive and disposal marking in five Chinese dialects — Beijing Mandarin, Taipei Mandarin, Guangzhou Yue, Shanghai Wu and Taiwan Southern Min. Using oral stories and oral responses, the study examines whether usage frequency is dialect-specific or is relatively uniform throughout. The results provide a rather nuanced view of ‘Pan-Chinese’ grammar, i.e. the usual distinction of Northern vs. Southern dialects is not fully predictive of the relative frequency at which the passive and disposal functions are formally marked.

Robert Sanders holds a PhD in Linguistics from the University of California at Berkeley (1986) and has previously taught Chinese language and Chinese linguistics at the University of Hawai‘i (1986-1988), the Ohio State University (1988-1993), Tohoku University (1998-2004) and the University of Auckland (1993-1998, 2004-2016). He takes up a similar position at Komatsu University in April of this year. His publications include the two textbooks Fundamental Spoken Chinese (University of Hawai‘i Press, 2009) and Fundamental Written Chinese (University of Hawai‘i Press, 2009), as well as journal articles that examine Beijing and Taiwan Mandarin from a variety of linguistic perspectives, including phonetics and phonology, sociolinguistics, discourse analysis and cognitive linguistics.

Thursday, February 8, 2018
3:00 PM
Bond Hall 217

WWU is an equal opportunity institution.

For disability accommodation contact (360) 650-3031.