Fixing Connections: 
Repairing Language in the Culture of Cell Phone Use among Millennials in Washington DC

Monday April 28
5:15pm • BUS 219
please join us at the Mathers Museum for a reception following the lecture

With over 6 billion handsets in use, cell phones are one of the most iconic technologies of the current era. An interdisciplinary ethnographic and linguistic study currently underway at GWU and the Smithsonian is investigating how these devices are used among so-called millennials in the DC area. By focusing on contexts of repair—both material repair of actual devices and verbal repair of dropped or misunderstood connections—we are examining the implications of this media technology for communicative and social relationships. The lecture will describe the project, some of its proposed theoretical and ethnographic implications, and provide some preliminary examples.

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