The Research Group **Languages in Contact**

presents in the **CLS Colloquium Lunch Series:**

**Languages in Contact**

by Pieter Muysken, Sophie Villerius & Luis Miguel Rojas Berscia

Our research aims to unravel the mechanisms underlying language contact from various angles, in different times and places, including the Andes and Amazon, Suriname, The Netherlands, and West Africa. For this purpose we carry out fieldwork tracking variation, change, and cross-linguistic influence in various communities. This presentation will center around two case studies: Javanese in coastal Suriname and Shawi in Amazonian Peru.

Sophie Villerius will present a study on patterns in Surinamese Javanese trilingual code-mixing, using the typology in Muysken (2000). The data seems to show different patterns for code-mixing from and to Dutch on the one hand, and Sranan Tongo on the other hand, which can be related to speaker variables such as age and gender, as well as semantic domain of the mixed elements. These patterns are then related to the sociolinguistic history of Surinamese Javanese, where Sranan Tongo and Dutch have been in contact with Javanese in different time frames and different contexts.

Luis Miguel Rojas Berscia will present an overview of the history of language change in Shawi, a language of North-Western Amazonia. Shawi is considered an almost "isolate" in South America. It is known, however, that Shawi speakers have been in contact with speakers of several different groups throughout their history, affecting not only their way of life but also their language. A phylogenetic study shows that Shawi pronouns are related to several other pronominal systems in the continent. In the same way, Shawi numeral systems retain a formal mold common to many Northern Peruvian languages. Rather than mere "isolates", South America shows relatedness at the subsystem level.

**When:** Tuesday 17 January, 2017 12:45-13:30  
**Where:** E2.50 (Erasmus Building)  

**Lunch is provided! To register, please send an email to:** clscolloquium@let.ru.nl  
For more information, see www.ru.nl/cls