Social Self-Location

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In this talk I argue that a speaker's self-location – where they position themselves in social space, with respect to norms and social facts – can be extracted from their linguistic behavior. Specifically, because social meanings relate to speaker values and social beliefs, their language use tends to reflect these values. The talk considers the specific case of honorifics in detail and argues that the "grounds" of honorific use – the social facts they require to be usable – also become available through considerations of norms around language use.