

NEXT WEEK AT QUEST

August Videos

August 19, 2026

On Wednesday, August 19, Quest will present the third in a series of three sessions featuring notable Quest speakers over the past several years. On August 19, we feature a September 2024 video featuring linguist Ross Perlin discussing the battle to preserve endangered mother tongues.

Following the video presentation, Bob Reiss will lead a live discussion among participants at the Zoom session.

To enter the session, click on "Summer Video Session" in red below.

SUMMER VIDEO SESSION

Meeting ID: 899 9142 8608

Passcode: 252525

Also given are the meeting ID and passcode for the video session. If you don't have Zoom installed on your computer, you can still enter a session using your browser by clicking on

<https://zoom.us/join>

and typing in the Meeting ID and passcode given above.

In addition, you can attend video sessions on your cell phone by dialing 1-929-205-6099. You will be asked for the Meeting ID and possibly the passcode.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 12 @ 10:30 AM – NOON

Course: **DISTINGUISHED GUEST LECTURER SERIES**
Speaker: Ross Perlin, Ph.D.
Subject: Language City: The Fight to Preserve Endangered Mother Tongues
Coordinators: Arlynn Greenbaum, Karen Levin, Bob Reiss, Estelle Selzer
Tech Support: Wayne Cotter
Time: Wednesday, August 19, at 10:30 AM until 12:00 Noon

Note: *This is a video recording from a Sept. 25, 2024, presentation at Quest. Following the video, Bob Reiss will lead a live discussion among Zoom participants*

Contemporary cities are the most linguistically diverse in history, even as half of the world's 7,000-plus languages are endangered. How did this happen, and what does it mean for the future of language?

Ross Perlin describes the race to document and support little-known languages, following six remarkable yet ordinary speakers of endangered languages deep into their communities, from New York's outer borough neighborhoods to villages on the other side of the world, to learn how they are maintaining and reviving their languages against the odds.

He also explores the languages themselves and the particular challenges and opportunities for language documentation, maintenance, and revitalization in urban areas.

Perlin is a linguist, writer, and translator focused on exploring and supporting linguistic diversity. His book *Language City: The Fight to Preserve Endangered Mother Tongues* was published by Grove in the US and the UK. Since 2013 he has been Co-Director of the Endangered Language Alliance in New York. He also teaches linguistics at Columbia.

His writing has appeared in The New York Times, The Guardian, Harper's, and elsewhere. His first book *Intern Nation: How to Earn Nothing and Learn Little in the Brave New Economy* ignited a national conversation about unpaid work. Perlin has an MA in Language Documentation and Description from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) and a Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Bern.