

JOINTLY INVENTING LANGUAGE WHY, HOW, AND WHAT?



FRIDAY, 14 NOVEMBER
3:00 P.M.
238 HRCB



John B. Haviland

DISTINGUISHED PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA—SAN DIEGO

John Beard Haviland is a linguistic anthropologist who has conducted groundbreaking work on the social life of languages. Having conducted intensive ethnographic research in Mexico, Australia, and Italy, among other places, Haviland's research on the relations of language and ritual has been pivotal in the field of linguistic anthropology and in anthropology more broadly. Additionally, his research on the Guugu Yimidhirr language of Australia is widely considered to be among the most important and often-cited evidence demonstrating the effects of language on thought. Among Haviland's recent

projects, and about which he will be speaking, is a National Science Foundation-funded study of home signers in Zinacantecan-speaking (Tzotzil) families in Chiapas, Mexico. Working with these home signers over the past five years, he has been documenting the development and emergence of a new sign language, which he calls "Z sign." This research illustrates the creative powers inherent in a small group of people.

Co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology and the Department of Linguistics.