

## **Mediation Talk in Cross Cultural Perspective**

In this paper I explore how cultural differences affect disputants' participation in mediation sessions. I will use a conversation analytic approach to explore the interactional techniques disputants use to make opening statements, tell their side of the story, propose solutions and respond to the contributions of the mediator and the opposing disputant. The analysis will be based on a tape recorded mediation session involving disputants who are Spanish-speaking immigrants to the U.S.. The session will be conducted in a non-profit mediation program which provides low cost mediation services to the public in a city in the Northeast region of the U.S. The purpose of the analysis is to explore how cultural and language differences affect how participants interact in mediation, and how they approach conflict and the conflict resolution process in the session.