

BioDATA

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Suzanne Romaine has been Merton Professor of English Language at the University of Oxford since 1984. Her research interests lie primarily in problems of societal multilingualism, linguistic diversity, language change, language acquisition, language revitalization and language contact. She has conducted extensive fieldwork in Europe (on the language of working class schoolchildren in Scotland and subsequently on patterns of bilingualism and language loss among Panjabi speakers in England) as well as in the Pacific Islands region (in Papua New Guinea on the language of rural and urban schoolchildren, and most recently in Hawai'i). She has received honorary doctorates from the University of Uppsala and the University of Tromsø and has held a variety of scholarships and visiting fellowships at other universities including the Rotary International Foundation fellowship (University of Edinburgh) and the Canada Commonwealth Scholarship (Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto). In 1991-1992 she was Kerstin Hesselgren Professor at the University of Uppsala, awarded for outstanding women in the Humanities, and sponsored by the Swedish Research Council for the Humanities and Social Sciences. In 2004-2005 she held the Royden B. Davis Chair in Interdisciplinary Studies at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. and in 2005-2006 she was a resident fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford. In 2010 she was elected Fellow of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters. She has published numerous books and articles on linguistic diversity, multilingualism, language death, language revitalization, language change and contact. One of her recent books, *Vanishing Voices. The Extinction of the World's Languages*. (Oxford University Press), co-authored with Daniel Nettle, won the British Association for Applied Linguistics Book of the Year Prize in 2001. This book tells the story of the decline of languages and explains why the loss of linguistic diversity is part of the larger picture of near-total collapse of the worldwide ecosystem. Her most recent research examines the interface between biodiversity, linguistic diversity, development and poverty. She was a member of the UNESCO Expert Group that produced UNESCO's position paper on Education in a Multilingual World. (Paris, 2003), and also wrote the background paper on Languages and Cultural Identities for UNESCO's report Investing in Cultural Diversity and Intercultural Dialogue (Paris, 2009).

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