

Wednesday 27th August 2014

Topic of the day:  
Deaf Culture and Current Research in SLL

### **Carol Padden:** *From Gesture to Sign Language*

Carol Padden is Professor in the Department of Communication at the University of California, San Diego. Since 2008 she also holds the position of Associate Dean and Faculty Equity Advisor in the Division of Social Sciences at the same university.

She was born in Washington, DC, and earned her Ph.D. in Linguistics at the University of California in San Diego, in 1983.

Alongside her colleagues Mark Aronoff, Irit Meir and Wendy Sandler she is currently involved in research of a new sign language developing in cultural and social circumstances different from the ones typical for the Western World. For example, they are exploring ways in which the language forms are created in the natural environment, what properties emerge after one or two generations of language use or how the language spreads in a group of its users.

In 2010 she was a recipient of the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation grant.

She is married to Tom Humphries and together they co-authored several books.

**Research interests:** American Sign Language, Language, Communication, Culture

#### Abstract

Our research group has been studying properties of gesture with speech, silent gesture (or pantomime) along with sign language to understand how the body is transformed when producing sign language. We will discuss several studies we have conducted of language emergence involving hearing non-signers, signers of a new sign language (3 or fewer generations from origin) and signers of an established sign language, including American Sign Language.