ABSTRACT
In this talk, I present preliminary findings from dissertation fieldwork in Southern Peru which concerns the impact and significance of study abroad programs focused on indigenous languages and cultures and issues of social justice. While a growing body of research examines the burgeoning tourism industry in places like Cuzco, Peru, and its connection to social inequality in the Andean region, interconnected industries, such as the rapid expansion of global education programs, have received less attention. Questions of language and race are key to understanding the import of these endeavors, especially in relation to their stated goals and effect on local Andean communities. Using ethnographic data, I highlight and contextualize the experiences of Quechua speakers who work with these programs and the politics of teaching Quechua to international students in Cuzco. This research contributes to broader efforts to examine linguistic and social dimensions of contemporary cross-cultural contact in the Andes in the 21st century.