“Learning to WADL
Building Western’s Language Archive”

December 2, 2016
11am -12pm, in AHB 2R09

Abstract:
Linguists often rely on communities to gather their data. This work requires the support of many to record speakers, collect stories, and complete the research. However, what does the community receive in return? The Western Archive of Dialects and Languages (WADL) will ensure communities benefit from allowing us to do our research.

After consultation with Western University Libraries, WADL will be a permanent, digital archive. It will be available to all, communities and researchers alike, to protect, promote, and pass on the heritage and histories of the Ciociaria in Sarnia.

Today, 1.4 million Canadians identify with an Italian heritage (StatsCan, 2013). Almost all Canadians have a ‘hyphenated’ identity: Italian-, Dutch-, French-, etc. My MA research project, the Ciociaria Heritage-Italian Language of Sarnia (CHILS) Corpus will produce 100 oral histories of Italian-Canadians living in Sarnia, recorded in the Ciociaria dialect. However, this project will also involve the digitization of photos, documents, and other ephemera.

By collaborating with Western University and Sarnia’s Italian community to build a digital archive, we will establish an interdisciplinary framework. It will be open to all researchers to preserve Heritage Languages and the histories of heritage communities throughout Canada, and the world.

Bio:
Michael Iannozzi is a second-year MA student at Western University. His research focusses on language documentation, sociolinguistics, and Heritage Languages. His current research projects are SWORE, CHILS, and WADL.

With the SouthWestern Ontario Regional English (SWORE) corpus, he record the oral histories and dialect of SouthWestern Ontario, with the goal of describing the dialect.
The Ciociaria Heritage-Italian Language of Sarnia (CHILS) corpus documents Sarnia’s Italian-Canadian community who come from Frosinone, Italy—the region associated with the Ciociaria dialect.

The Western Archive of Dialects and Languages (WADL) will ensure these oral histories are preserved and available to all.