Evidence in Applied Linguistics and the Death of Truth

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In this presentation the first part is on what counts as evidence in Applied Linguistics: what type of data have the heaviest weight and how do we deal with subjectivity in evaluating data as evidence. The arguments used are based on the work of the American philosopher of Science Peter Achinstein and his work on ‘reasons to believe.’

In the second part the role of scientific evidence as truth will be discussed in the larger framework of societal impact in a time of alternative data and disdain for scientific evidence. We will take Michiko Kakutani’s book ‘The Death of Truth’ as a starting point for the discussion that will largely be interactive and centered around the question how we can turn the tide in this respect.