Drawing from my ethnographic research on African American children in an after school program in Washington, D.C., I will discuss the importance of understanding the relationship of language to race from what is called a “raciolinguistic perspective.” My recent book, Speaking of Race (2020, Lexington Books), examines how 31 children who lived and attended school in a high-poverty area of Washington, D.C. used language to challenge their racialized subject-positioning in school-based settings. It explores what it meant for these children to be Black in a U.S. society that claims to be “post-racial,” but which nevertheless continues to produce racialized inequality via schools and schooling. I discuss how my focus and findings on African American children’s language and identity practices reveal continued contradictions in contemporary U.S. ideologies of belonging and difference (i.e., diversity, multiculturalism, and inclusion), which are grounded in reproducing white supremacy as a condition of liberal democracy.

JENNIFER B. DELFINO
Borough of Manhattan Community College, CUNY

March 19, 2021 4:15-6:15pm

Register at: https://gc-cuny-edu.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsd-qvrzsiH9wPUXJe52iGiGJ1KfXYH6Vr