

<u>Workshop ID :</u>	19
<u>Workshop Duration :</u>	Workshop - 2 Days
<u>Workshop Title :</u>	New directions in world Englishes research
<u>Workshop Leader :</u>	Edgar Schneider (University of Regensburg), Christiane Meierkord (Ruhr-Universität Bochum), Susan Coetzee-Van Rooy (North-West University), in collaboration with Kingsley Bolton (Nanyang Technological University) & Werner Botha (Nanyang Technological University)

This two-day workshop discusses the complex sociolinguistics of world Englishes and their spread at the grassroots of societies worldwide.

Day 1: World Englishes and sociolinguistic realities

Current patterns of intensified migration in the world have contributed to the increasing sociolinguistic complexity of many societies, at both societal and individual levels. The continued addition of English(es) to the language repertoires of people across the world is an important element in this process. However, despite the seemingly unstoppable spread of English worldwide, many people do maintain home languages and minority languages, often within complex repertoires of multilingual knowledge and language use. On the first day of this workshop, the contributors will discuss recent research in world Englishes (WE) which aims to describe and explain the sociolinguistic complexity of the multilingual contexts of English in Africa, Asia, and elsewhere. Such discussions involve a range of issues relating to language change, as well as the tension between shared linguistic codes and individual agency.

Day 2: The global growth of English at the grassroots

In the past, world Englishes have largely been associated with and analyzed as spoken by educated elites in their respective societies, while the performances of speakers from outside of the 'educated' range have typically received scanty attention or have been sidelined as (fossilized) learner language or contact-induced forms. Increasingly, however, second and foreign language Englishes are used at the grassroots level, by individuals coming from poor backgrounds and with little or no access to formal education and in contexts outside of international organisations, education and academia, and the business world (Meierkord 2012), often typically having been learned "in direct interactions rather than through formal education" (Schneider 2016). Employing a broad understanding of grassroots diffusion, the second day of the open workshop aims to explore and describe how English spread to and is being appropriated in such contexts. This seems timely, since, although precise figures are not available, such grassroots usage and diffusion of English appears to be an extremely common phenomenon these days, caused by various forms of migration and travel, intercultural contacts, and, to some extent, the Internet. Topics to be discussed include the following:

- theoretical discussions of the relation between notions of hybrid languages, trans- & polylinguaging and World Englishes;
- sociolinguistic accounts of grassroots individuals or communities using English and of grassroots settings and situations in which L2 Englishes are increasingly used;
- descriptions of the structural features characterizing the use of English at the grassroots;
- qualitative data analyses of grassroots L2 uses;
- discussions of ethical aspects related to pursuing research with communities that are vulnerable.