

*The Americanization of English in Anglophone and non-Anglophone countries: transnational attraction or global English?*

The spread of American English features into online communication from countries round the world was dramatically demonstrated by Goncalves et al. (2018), in their research on data then available from Twitter. It brought to light clear differences in the takeup of American words and spellings between twitterati in Anglophone countries of the inner circle (Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland), and those of the expanding circle, i.e. non-Anglophone countries, Germany, Turkey, Indonesia, China. It invites research on the apparently greater receptivity to American English of the latter group, suggesting there is some level of transnational attraction (Schneider 2014), or American influence through its place as the hypercentral variety in Mair's (2013) taxonomy of world Englishes. This plenary will draw on the findings of an international project among world English researchers in Australia, China and Germany (World English in non-Anglophone Environments), using customized corpora of newswriting from major newspapers in China, Indonesia, Namibia, Germany. These will be compared with data from the current NOW (News on the Web) corpora for several inner and outer circle Englishes (Australia, New Zealand, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Singapore, the Philippines), for their relative positions in the takeup of Americanisms. The investigation is based on hundreds of items including American terms ("license plate"), phraseologies ("in back of"), spellings ("moldy") and morphological variants ("canceled"), identified in research on the second edition of the *Cambridge Guide to English Usage*. The results in each country will be correlated with their linguistic ecologies, including the official or auxiliary status of English, and its educational, social and economic functions, so as to profile their orientation to world Englishes.