

Invitation to the Jenny Cheshire Lecture 2014

English in Paradise?: a new variety in the Pacific

David Britain - Professor of Modern English Linguistics, University of Bern



Friday 13 June 2014 at 6.30pm

Maths Lecture Theatre,
School of Mathematical Sciences, Mile End Campus

The talk aims to provide a holistic sociohistorical, political as well as linguistic account of the process by which a new English emerges in a colonial environment. Taking the case of the Republic of Palau in Micronesia as an example, I will examine, first, the emergence of English in the context of the country's complex colonial past. Second, I attempt to apply Schneider's 'Dynamic Model' of postcolonial English formation to this community. Palau provides an interesting and important testing ground for the model, because few communities in which English has emerged as a result of American as opposed to British colonialism have been examined to date. Finally, I present, based on analyses of recordings of informal conversations among Palauans, an initial portrait of the main linguistic characteristics of Palauan English, and assess the extent to which English is nativising in this small community.

David Britain is Professor of Modern English Linguistics at the University of Bern in Switzerland. His research interests include language variation and change, varieties of English, dialect contact and attrition, and the dialectology-human geography interface, with particular interest in applying insights from social geography's Mobilities paradigm to social dialectology. He is editor of *Language in the British Isles* (CUP, 2007), co-editor (with Jenny Cheshire) of *Social Dialectology* (Benjamin, 2003), and co-author of *Linguistics: an Introduction* (with Andrew Radford, Martin Atkinson, Harald Clahsen and Andrew Spencer) (CUP, 2nd edition, 2009). Dave is also currently an Associate Editor of the *Journal of Sociolinguistics* and is on the editorial board of *Journal of Linguistic Geography* and *English World-Wide*.

A reception will follow the lecture

Future lectures: The 2015 lecture will be given by Professor Paul Kerswill.

Ticket Information

This event is free to attend, but you must book tickets online in advance if you wish to attend. Please click the button on the right and follow the instructions to make a booking. You will then be emailed an e-ticket and you should bring this with you on the day.

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Map and Directions

This event takes place at our Mile End Campus. Please click on the icon below for the map and directions:



Mile End Campus



The nearest tube stations are Stepney Green and Mile End

Maths Lecture Theatre
School of Mathematical Sciences
Queen Mary, University of London
Mile End Road
London E1 4NS

Further Information

If you have any questions regarding this event please contact the Events Office via events@qmul.ac.uk or telephone 020 7882 3485.