

Gastvortrag von **Alexander Onysko**

“World Englishes from the perspective of language contact”

Abstract:

In the field of world Englishes and varieties of English, processes of language contact have continued to play a pivotal role ever since Braj Kachru's description of Englishes as functionally adapted varieties in often multilingual and multicultural settings (1992: 6). Despite the relevance of language contact, models trying to map the diversity of Englishes (e.g. Kachru 1985, 1988; McArthur 1987; Görlach 1988; Modiano 1999; Mesthrie & Bhatt 2008; Schneider 2007) do not rely on language contact as a basic process of differentiating between varieties of English.

This talk will explore the possibility of explaining the diversity of Englishes in the world by means of language contact. Drawing on a range of fundamental models and theories of language contact (cf. Mufwene 2001, 2008; Thomason 2001; Van Coetsem 2000), a language contact typology of Englishes is outlined, which captures the macro-types of Englishes in the world. Adopting a contact linguistic perspective on world Englishes also bears egalitarian ideological implications that emphasize a non-hierarchical view of Englishes and their speakers.

References

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Alexander Onysko is Full Professor in English linguistics at Alpen-Adria Universität Klagenfurt (Austria). He held a previous appointment as Associate Professor of English linguistics at Ca' Foscari University of Venice (Italy). Before that, he was senior researcher at the European Academy Bolzano (EURAC) and a post-doctoral researcher at the University of Innsbruck. As visiting professor, he taught at the Universities of Hamburg, Bochum, and Gothenburg. His research interests and publications are in the areas of language contact, bi/multilingualism, cognitive linguistics, and world Englishes. Part of his current work focuses on bilingualism in Māori and English following extended research stays at the Faculty of Māori and Indigenous Studies, University of Waikato (New Zealand).

Wann: Freitag, 23. November 2018 um 12:30 Uhr

**Wo: Besprechungsraum, Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik
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