

SPEAKING OF VARIATION IN LANGUAGE

A five-week series of short online talks for the (English) language enthusiast

In what ways do sounds vary between languages and dialects? Are there different ways of being proficient in English, considering the spread of the language around the globe? How does the social media of the Edwardian era compare to ours? Does the language about women in videogames diverge from that about men? How “normal” is the grammar of English from the perspective of the thousands of languages in the world at large?

All these questions will be answered in *Speaking of Variation in Language*, a series of short online talks that the Department of Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster University is organising. For five weeks, we will be holding a session every Wednesday from 13:30 to 14:00 (British Summer Time). The talks assume no prior knowledge and are aimed at students from Year 10 onwards, their teachers and others interested in variation in language. There will also be an opportunity to ask questions about the topic of the session or about studying linguistics or English language in general and next year. The talks are free but sign-up via the links below is required

The schedule is as follows:

- Wednesday 20 May 2020, 13:30-14:00 (BST)– *Battle of the grammars: English versus the world’s languages* by [Dr Daniel Van Olmen](#) – To sign up, please click [here!](#)
- Wednesday 27 May 2020, 13:30-14:00 (BST) – *The dance of the tongue: Phonetic variation across languages and dialects* by [Dr Sam Kirkham](#) – To sign up, please click [here!](#)
- Wednesday 3 June 2020, 13:30-14:00 (BST) – *Exploring the language about gender in videogames: Big data and corpus linguistics* by [Mr Frazer Heritage](#) – To sign up, please click [here!](#)
- Wednesday 10 June 2020, 13:30-14:00 (BST) – *World Englishes and English as a lingua franca: Implications of the spread of English* by [Prof Luke Harding](#) – To sign up, please click [here!](#)
- Wednesday 17 June 2020, 13:30-14:00 (BST)– *Writing the Edwardian postcard: Formality, informality and multimodality* by [Dr Julia Gillen](#) – To sign up, please click [here!](#)

All sessions take place online in Microsoft Teams and will be recorded for later upload to our departmental [YouTube channel](#). Guidance on joining a Teams event is available on [this website](#).