



Mario Saraceni

LINGUISTIC BORDER CROSSINGS AND THE BENEFITS OF DISORDER

November 25th, 10:00, room 243.

A growing amount of attention has been devoted in sociolinguistics to what we may call linguistic border crossings in the last decade or so. With clear references to sociocultural aspects of globalisation, a sizeable body of scholarship has developed specifically examining phenomena such as language hybridity, translanguaging and, in general, language practices in conditions of (super)-diversity. One effect of this is that the challenge to traditional conceptualisations of languages – discrete units naturally bound to nations and cultures – is being brought to the fore and substantially reinvigorated.

With this in mind, and with a specific focus on English, in my talk I will do three things: (1) attempt to show that linguistic border crossings are not in any way peculiar to the 21st century or globalization, (2) trace the history of the ways in which fields within sociolinguistics have dealt with such border crossings, (3) discuss important questions stemming out of all of this that are specifically relevant to ELT/TESOL practitioners as well as English language learners. Questions, that is, regarding what is being taught/learnt, by whom and why.

Mario Saraceni (PhD) teaches English Language and Linguistics at the University of Portsmouth, UK, where he has been since 2004. Prior to that, he was at Assumption University, Bangkok. His main research interest is in the ideological, political and pedagogical implications of the forms and functions of English as a global language. He has published extensively in this area. His latest book, *World Englishes: A Critical Analysis* (Bloomsbury, 2015) has recently won the *British Association for Applied Linguistics* annual *Book Prize* for 2016. This is Mario's first visit to Bulgaria.