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Abstract for Plenary Session

World Englishes Across Cultures: Arguments for the Multilingual Model and a Multilingual Pedagogy

By: Andy Kirkpatrick

It is now generally accepted that many different varieties of English co-exist in today's world and that these are characterised by variation. In this talk, I shall first give specific examples of how varieties of English differ in terms of their respective pronunciations, vocabularies, grammars and cultural conventions, using data from a selection of 'traditional' and 'new' varieties of English. I will show that the great majority of the speakers of new varieties of English are multilinguals. I shall then consider the implications of the existence of world Englishes and their multilingual speakers for the English language teacher. I shall argue that, as the majority of English users are multilinguals, the English teacher should also be. In this way, the multilingual teacher can provide not only a role model but also a linguistic model for learners. I shall also argue that the presence of multilingual students and multilingual teachers calls for the adoption of a multilingual pedagogy, and the rejection of a monolingual pedagogy, which insists that English should be the only language used in the English language classroom. Examples of a multilingual pedagogy in use will be provided.