

*Dr Rebecca Lurie Starr (National University of Singapore)*

**Department of Linguistics - Guest Lecture**  
*Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 11h00-12h30*  
*Mile End Road, Queen's Building E303*

**Is your child learning Singlish? Attitudes, exposure, and acquisition of variation among local and expatriate children in Singapore**

Although orientation towards local linguistic norms is increasing in Singapore, Singapore English (SgE) is still perceived by some as a non-native variety. Variation in attitudes towards SgE may shape acquisition of SgE features by both Singaporean and expatriate children, who increasingly attend government schools. The present study investigates how the -t/d deletion patterns of 60 children reflect their attitudes and school setting. Significant correlations are observed between deletion rate, attitude towards SgE, and accent self-perception among Singaporean children, highlighting that this variety is undergoing endonormative stabilization. However, while some expatriates in local schools delete more than peers in international schools, expatriate children generally do not acquire local -t/d deletion rates or constraints, regardless of familiarity with SgE or attitudes towards the variety. This gap between locals and expatriates reflects the persistence of ideologies that delegitimize SgE, as well as the growing prominence of SgE as a marker of local identity.

**Westminster Forum for Language and Linguistics - Guest Lecture**  
*Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December, 16h00-17h00*  
*4-12 Little Titchfield Street, Room 2.06A*

**Media, mobility, and change in Singapore English**

Recent scholarship in world Englishes has advocated for a shift away from lectal continuum models to a feature-focused, variationist approach, in which speakers make use of linguistic resources to index a range of social meanings. This framework is particularly useful in cosmopolitan contexts such as the Southeast Asian nation of Singapore, in which transnational mobility and exposure to international media have resulted in a broadening of individual repertoires and the diversification of the linguistic landscape beyond a dichotomous opposition between local and external English norms. In this talk, I survey some of my recent work on variation and change in Singapore English, from both perception and production perspectives, and highlight the multiple roles played by transnational mobility and media consumption in shaping the trajectory of change in this community.