This seminar is intended to share diverse understandings of the ontological status of ‘English’ and to stimulate debate regarding the ways in which the language can be most effectively conceptualised for L1 and L2 learning, teaching, and assessment. The emphasis will be on finding areas of common ground through constructive interaction and debate between scholars from different disciplinary backgrounds and theoretical frameworks. In addition to the keynote papers, there will be shorter papers by five Early Career Researchers or PhD students nominated by the principal speakers. By the end of the seminar we would hope to have identified key issues of agreement and disagreement, and to have formulated ideas about how awareness of these issues might inform, confirm, or contest aspects of current policy and practice.

Organising committee

Vicky Crawley, Clare Cunningham, Christopher J Hall, Indu Meddegama, Rachel Wicaksono

The seminar is organised by LidIA, the Language and Identities in InterAction Research Unit of the Department of Languages and Linguistics at York St John University.
Call for participation

Participation in the seminar is restricted to fifteen places and is by application (see below). Registration costs £85.00 and the fee includes coffee/tea breaks and lunch on all three days, a barbecue supper on Wednesday evening, and seminar materials. Because we hope that delegates will contribute to the discussion as it unfolds over the duration of the event, we are not offering a single-day rate.

Two bursaries of £200.00 each will be available for student members of BAAL.

Delegates will need to cover their own travel and accommodation costs; however, subsidised accommodation (approx. £23.00 per night, incl. breakfast) is available on campus. A list of B&Bs and hotels is available from the organisers. A seminar dinner will be held at historic Gray’s Court on Thursday evening, for an additional fee of £40.00 + drinks.

To apply for a place, please send an email with the following information to Chris Hall at baalcup@yorksj.ac.uk:

- Name, institution, position (for academic staff) or programme (for students), email address
- Statement of interest, relevant area(s) of expertise and possible contribution* (max. 200 words)
- Willingness to serve as a discussant** for [name of keynote]
- BAAL member?

* We intend to publish an edited volume based on the seminar papers and discussion. Participation in the seminar will not guarantee an invitation to contribute a chapter, but we are keen to invite delegates who have a special interest in the seminar topic and might be in position to contribute to the volume.

** Discussants will be expected to identify and address key emergent issues following each session (which comprise keynote paper, paper by ECR/PhD student, general discussion) and to briefly represent conclusions prior to a final panel discussion.

Deadline for applications: Friday 27th February