

# ENGLISH DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

## Staff News

**Esther de Leeuw** has been awarded a SPARK grant for her project MOTHER TONGUES. Here is how **Esther** describes her project: “When and how do bilingual babies start to produce their two languages separately? My SPARK funded research - MOTHER TONGUES - will address this question by using **ultrasound tongue imaging (UTI)** and acoustic analyses of targeted language-specific segmental and prosodic variables to examine the extent to which bilingual infants and toddlers produce speech uniquely in their two languages. By investigating “hidden” tongue gestures - only observable through UTI - combined with acoustic analyses of language specific variables in the bilingual children’s speech, MOTHER TONGUES will provide the first ever UTI-based articulatory dataset for this age group to reveal how speech sounds emerge from articulations and vocalisations in bilingual children.” Here is a picture of **UTI** being used on **Esther’s** daughter.



**Matthew Scully** has received a SANAS Research Award to travel to Montreal in March 2024 for the American Comparative Literature Association’s annual meeting, where he will present a paper entitled, “Jennifer Egan and the Network Novel.”



**Juliette Vuille** was asked to rap some of The Canterbury Tales with students at a medieval dinner organised by the Germanistik and English department Fachschafts at the University of Fribourg on 8 November. They had a lot of fun, and there is a still of their performance.

## Research and Publications

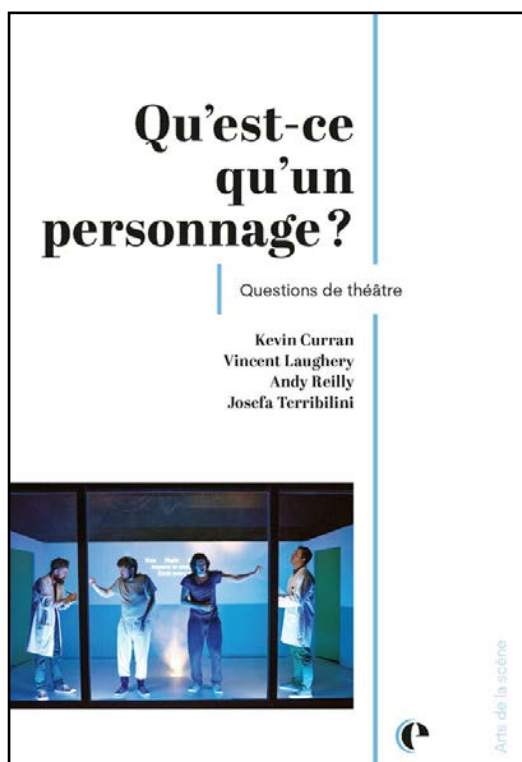
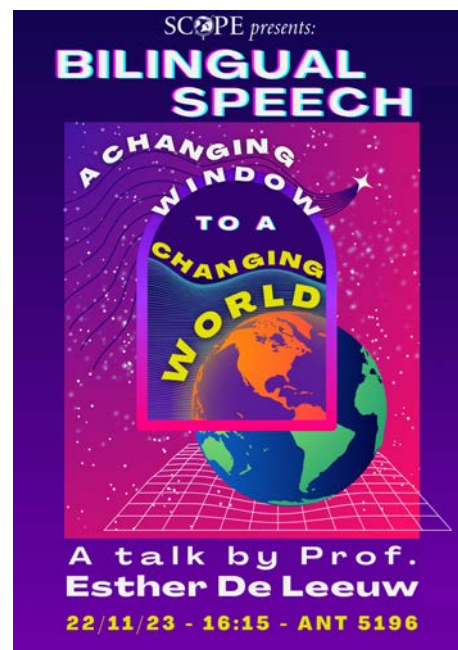
A paperback edition of **Rachel Falconer's** book *Seamus Heaney and the Good of Poetry* is coming out this November from [Edinburgh University Press](#). Rachel is happy that an almost affordable version is finally available!

**Jennifer Thorburn** is currently a visiting scholar at the University of Melbourne and gave a talk as part of their "Linguistics in the Pub" series entitled "Delving into language attitudes in French-speaking Switzerland through perceptual dialectology" on Wednesday 15 November.

On 22 November, **Esther de Leeuw** gave this semester's SCOPE talk entitled "Bilingual Speech: A Changing Window to a Changing World".

**Rory Critten** gave an invited lecture entitled "Sharing the Housework in the Ballad of a Tyrannical Husband and The Wright's Chaste Wife" at the University of Bonn on 23 November.

**Matthew Scully's** article, "Colson Whitehead's *The Nickel Boys* and the Construction of Black Life," has just [appeared](#) in *SPELL: Swiss Papers in English Language and Literature* 42 (2023), pp. 83-101. The issue, edited by **Thomas Austenfeld** and **Aurélien Zurbrugg**, follows from last year's SANAS conference, "Who Tells Your Story?," held at the University of Fribourg.



**Kevin Curran, Vincent Laughery, Andy Reilly, and Josefa Terribilini's** co-authored [book](#), *Qu'est-ce qu'un personnage ?* (EPFL Press, 2023), was published at the end of November. It is the first volume in the new series "Questions de théâtre" directed by **Kevin Curran** and published in paperback and open-access by EPFL Press, in partnership with Unil's Centre d'Etudes Théâtrales, under the [Épistémé](#) imprint.

**Denis Renevey** contributed to the publication *Women and Devotional Literature in the Middle Ages: Giving Voice to Silence. Essays in Honour of Catherine Innes-Parker* with a chapter entitled "Breath Courting Silence in The Wohunge of Ure Lauerd". The collection is edited by Cate Gunn, Liz Herbert McAvoy and Naoë Kukita Yoshikawa (Boydell & Brewer, 2023).

This month, **Jessica Brown** gave an invited lecture on English grammar at Yale entitled “Locality Patterns in Coordination and Pseudocoordination”.

**Jessica** also participated in the SynNYU workshop at NYU.

In November, **Valérie Cossy** and our colleague **Christine Le Quellec Cottier** from the French department were in South Africa, as a follow-up to the 2020 Africana conference and their 2022 book (*Africana, Figures de femmes et formes de pouvoir*, Classiques Garnier, entirely available [online](#)). On 16 November **Valérie** gave a talk entitled “*L’Afrique en classe à Lausanne: trouver une voie entre francophonie et hégémonie académique anglo-américaine*” within the one-day conference organized at UCT (University of Cape Town) by prof. **Markus Arnold**. Under the title “*Tensions sur les voix féminines: quelles circulations éditoriales?*”, **Christine**’s presentation was about the straitjacket produced by the French publishing industry in relation to African literature by women. Her talk relied on examples from Fatou Diome and Djaili Amadou Amal (interviewed in our book). The whole day was a success, even with a rather unsettling decoration on the walls.



On 17 November **Chen Cui** presented his paper entitled “Spatial Narrative and the *Mandeville*-Author’s Vision of World System” and received useful feedback via ZOOM for the CUSO *journée d’étude* “From Name to Space, and to Myth Toponyms, Topographies, Representations, and How Places Become Mythical in the Pre-Modern Mediterranean Space and Beyond (7th–14th centuries)”.

**Chen** also presented a paper entitled “Female Monstrosity and Heroism in Emotive Nature: Reading *Báðarsaga Snæfellsáss* and *The Legend of the Condor Heroes*” at the University of Tübingen on 11 November, during the GEMMA winter school (Gender, Emotion, and Monstrosity in the Middle Ages). It was fully funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) and the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science as part of the Excellence Strategy of the German Federal and State Governments.



**Chen** is happy to share that his externally funded doctoral project “Eco-Narrative and Self-Expression in Medieval European Travel Writing” has yielded some preliminary results:

His essay “The *Mandeville*-Author’s Universal Historical Concern and Vision of World System” has been accepted by the *Journal of Exemplaria: Medieval, Early Modern, Theory*. It will come out for the 2024 special issue, “After Abu-Lughod: Comparative Frames for A Global Middle Ages”;

His paper “Nature, Body, and the Entangled Self in Grettis saga Ásmundarsonar” has been accepted by the co-edited volume Human and Nonhuman Relations and Imaginaries in the Middle Ages (Trivent, 2024);

His non-academic article (written in Italian), co-authored with Dr. Raissa de Gruttola (Università Ca’ Foscari Venezia) and titled “Marco Polo e le Descrizioni della Natura”, will appear on the Italian Journal *Natura: Rivista di Ambiente e Territorio dell’Arma del Carabinieri* in January 2024;

His three session proposals for the International Medieval Congress (Leeds, July 1-4, 2024) have all been accepted. Together with Benjamin Bertrand (Fordham University), he will organise three panels of 10 papers in Leeds, themed on “*Multifarious Crisis in Global Medieval Travel History and Travel Writing*”. Based on this he plans to prepare a co-edited volume in foreseeable future.

The Department Symposium, organized by **Rory Critten**, took place on 6 November. The day gave us the opportunity to hear about some of our colleagues’ research:

**Sam MacDuff**: “The Logic of J. M. Coetzee’s Jesus Trilogy.”

**Enit Steiner**: “Eighteenth-Century Contexts of Cosmopolitanism.”

**Lucie Kaempfer**: “The Joy of Love: A Medieval Literary History - Joy vs. Happiness.”

**Viktoriia Skriabina**: “The Woes of Babel: Language Interference and Multilingualism.”

**Juliette Vuille**: “Introducing Old Norse Runes: A Beginner’s Workshop.”

**Céline Magada**: “From Print to the Stage: Spaces of Judgment and the Swetnam Controversy.”

**Mouna Kohil**: “(Un)Belonging and the Quest for Home in Carla Maliandi’s *The German Room*.”



The symposium was also an opportunity to discuss “scholars at work outside the academy”, a panel with contributions from **Boris Vejdovsky**, **Camille Marshall** and **Joanne Chassot**.

On 3-5 November, **Rory Critten**, **Denis Renevey**, **Christiania Whitehead**, **Chen Cui**, **Lucie Kaempfer**, **Mireille Le Berre**, and **Céline Magada** travelled to Padua for the second phase of the Lausanne-Padua Research Symposium in Medieval and Early Modern Studies. The symposium, funded by the international offices in Lausanne and Padua, included a variety of talks presented by MA students, PhD candidates and postdocs from Lausanne and Padua as well as a keynote lecture offered by **Giovanni Iamartino** (Università degli Studi di Milano). The following talks were given by our Lausanne colleagues:

**Mireille Le Berre**: “Reading Femininity in *Orysons and Meditations*”

**Chen Cui**: “Spatial Narrative and the *Mandeville*-Author’s Vision of World System: Reading *Mandeville’s Travels* as a Universal History.”

**Lucie Kaempfer**: “The Joy of Love: A Medieval Literary History – The Italian Chapter.”

**Céline Magada**: “Between Playbook and Pamphlet: Defining Judgment in Ben Jonson’s *The Staple of News*.”

The exchange, organised by **Rory Critten**, **Omar Khalaf**, **Alessandra Petrina**, **Denis Renevey** and **Christiania Whitehead** took place withing the privileged partnership that connects the Université de Lausanne and the Università degli Studi di Padova.





On 24 November **Juliette Vuille** and **Denis Renevey** led a group of 22 students from the English Department for a one-day visit to the Abbey Library of St Gall. In addition to the Abbey Library, the Vaulted Cellar and the Archives Exhibition Space, **Dr Franziska Schnoor** gave two one-hour workshops on four manuscripts we had selected for the occasion (one including Bede's Death Song in Northumbrian, and another one runes). The visit was preceded by an impromptu lecture and manuscript workshop in the train, organised and performed by **Juliette!**





## Forthcoming Events

On Wednesday 20 December, **Marie Emilie Walz** will be giving a talk entitled “Les métamorphoses transmédiales de *Stardust* de Neil Gaiman” as part of the [cours public du CIEL](#) *Les littératures et leurs supports*.

### Beyond World Englishes: Language categorization, colonial ideologies and Creole Exceptionalism

6 December 2023, Zoom

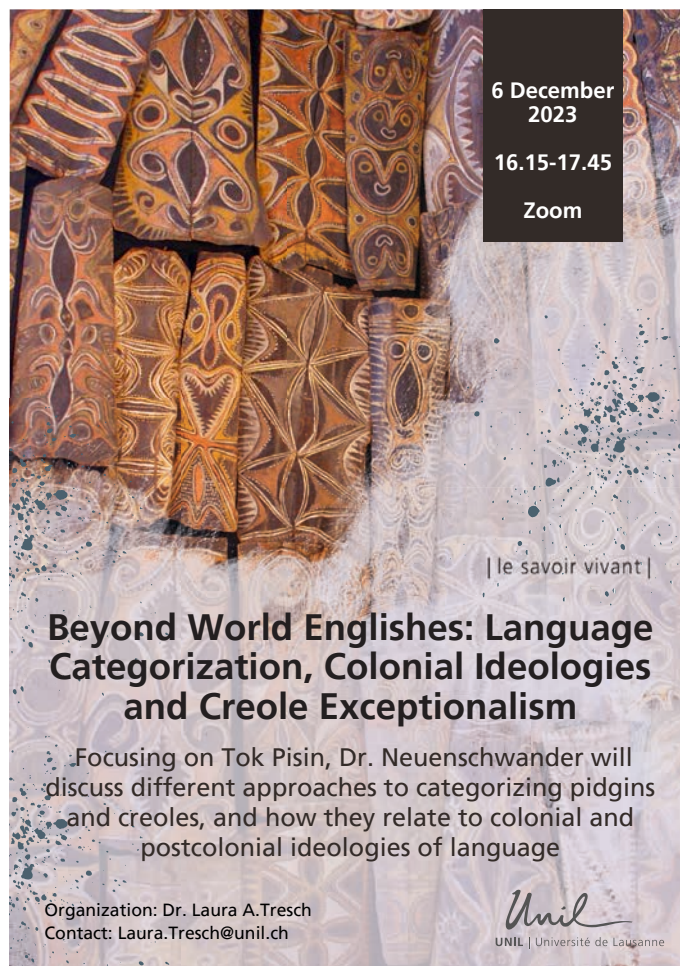
#### Abstract:

Over the past decades, research on an increasing number of (lesser-known) varieties of English around the globe has expanded our understanding of the Anglophone world, its colonial history and linguistic complexity. However, English-based pidgin and creole languages are usually excluded from the World Englishes paradigm, creating a somewhat artificial boundary around what we conceptualize as ‘English’. In this guest lecture, we will take a look at what lies outside that boundary. Focusing on Tok Pisin, the lingua franca of Papua New Guinea, I will discuss different approaches to categorizing pidgins and creoles, and how they relate to colonial and postcolonial ideologies of language. I will provide an overview of the development and unique characteristics of Tok Pisin as an English-based creole, and challenge the problematic notion that pidgins and creoles are exceptional linguistic phenomena.

#### Bio:

Christoph Neuenschwander is a Postdoctoral Fellow at University College Dublin. His current research focuses on sociolinguistic variation in Hawai‘i Creole. He obtained his PhD at the University of Bern, investigating language ideological narratives around Hawai‘i Creole and Tok Pisin. Christoph worked as a lecturer at the Universities of Lausanne, Bern and Fribourg, and as the Program Coordinator for Sociolinguistics at the Center for the Study of Language and Society in Bern.

If you would like to attend, please contact **Laura Tresch** by email ([Laura.Tresch@unil.ch](mailto:Laura.Tresch@unil.ch)).





**SCOPE's famous Christmas party will take place on 14 December at the Refuge du Censuy from 6:30 pm.**

**Make sure you wear your best/worst Christmas sweater!**

Wishing you all a lovely winter break and a very happy holiday!