

Abstract for Kolloquium Linguistik (Bielefeld)

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Title: *Investigating the pragmatics of Namibian English: From PraNameE to PraProNE*

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In this talk, we will present preliminary considerations and previous work leading to a project that has recently been granted funding from the German Research Foundation (DFG). We will illustrate how we came to identify a research gap that exists in the field of World Englishes (WE) as well as Variational Pragmatics (VP). We will explicate how we situate our research with regard to these two research paradigms, which – thus far – generally exist as separate lines of inquiry with their own principles and agendas. Furthermore, we will give an outlook on the project as it is planned from October 2022 onwards, in which we intend to address a number of research desiderata identified. These include, for instance, adding much needed data on the pragmatics of African Englishes in general and Namibian English specifically, thereby advancing the endeavour of compiling a comprehensive account of the pragmatics of Englishes worldwide. Furthermore, paying attention to the impact of pragmatic transfer from various first and second languages spoken in Namibia, underlining the relevance of this factor for the pragmatic description of multilingual, post-colonial language ecologies such as the one found in Namibia. This will centrally include a systematic and synergistic combination of quantitative and qualitative research methods, allowing us to adhere to the principle of contrastivity central to VP while properly taking into account the emic perspective and socio-cultural complexity of the language community in question.