

## **Caliban's creative chaos: Contemporary dynamics of English in Indian multilingualism**

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In this talk I will revisit the pioneering work of Braj Kachru on world Englishes—hence the first part of the title borrowed from his Jubilee Lecture—and situate it within the contemporary framework of the sociolinguistics of globalization (Blommaert 2010) to explore the various indexical functions and meanings mobilized in English bilingual use in India. Kachru's several works on world Englishes illustrate, *par excellence*, aspects of bilingual's creativity in linguistic, sociolinguistic, and literary forms (cf. Kachru 1986). In this talk I will use Linguistic Landscapes as a methodological framework (Gorter 2006, Backhaus 2007, Shohamy et al. 2011, Coupland 2012) to argue that multilingual repertoires must be viewed as indexical resources mobilized to navigate super-diverse complexes of contemporary sociolinguistic contexts. I will focus on new forms of hybridity that show up routinely within the contemporary linguistic landscape of India, where multilingualism, multi-scriptality, and multiple indexical meanings are recruited in decorative displays of local linguascape (cf. Appadurai 1996), establishing a new "archive" (Blommaert 2005). English, in this new archive, is used as a resource for increasing mobility, linking the local-traditional to the global-modern, enabling local consumers to (re-)position themselves with regard to new community-practices of speaking and writing, resistance and transgression, and nostalgia and authenticity.