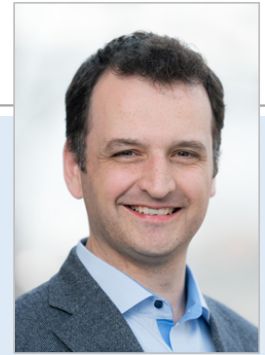**Lecture Series**

Debating the Anglosphere

Prof. Dr. Ana Sobral &
Dr. des. Martin Mühlheim

a) Mapping the Terrain: Definitions and Challenges

1. **Ana Sobral & Martin Mühlheim** – Introduction

2. **Srdjan Vucetic** – The Anglosphere beyond Security

3. **Martin Dusinberre** – Other Spheres in History: The Sinosphere

1. Ana Sobral & Martin Mühlheim – Introduction

- The Anglosphere's influence can be felt on the level of media (news) and popular culture → Even outside of the Anglosphere (in the West) we tend to know more about what's happening in the Anglosphere than anywhere else

- Several publications exploring the Anglosphere from different angles (not necessarily using that term) focus on key aspects such as its importance on the level of global politics and history, and the Anglocentrism patent in literature and communication (language across the world)

- The (ongoing) debates about the abrogation or appropriation of English in postcolonial Anglophone literatures (e.g. in Africa) show the immense impact that the enforced establishment of English as a language of administration, education and cultural domination has had all over the world

- The Anglo-influence on the level of education is clearly visible in the rankings system, which is strongly modelled on the framework of American research universities
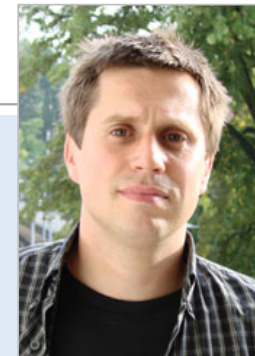
2. Srdjan Vucetic – The Anglosphere beyond Security

- Levels on which the Anglosphere manifests itself:
  - Security (the Five Eyes; "interoperability" arrangements, such as US-led war interventions)
  - Policy (cooperation agreements, e.g., free labour movement)
  - History (the 'Anglo-Saxons' → Racialized notion from the 19th century)
  - Imagination (the Anglosphere as a transnational 'imagined community'; rise of a transnational 'we' around late 19th century)

- While as a *political idea* the Anglosphere remains not very practical, it is very much a *reality* in terms of international security → cf. the FVEY (Five Eyes), the intelligence cooperation between the USA, UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand → sense of a "security community"

- Essential to this idea of the Anglosphere is the absence of public representation and citizen participation

3. Martin Dusinberre – Other Spheres in History: The Sinosphere

- Japan's late-18th-cent. encounter with the Dutch = challenge to 'Chinese universalism'

  - attempts to translate concepts into conceptual universe of the Sinosphere

  - colonial encounter poses a challenge to the very notion of 'universal ideas'

- Shock of the Opium war + gunboat diplomacy ('opening of Japan' by Matthew C. Perry)

  - challenges to idea of Chinese superiority, European inferiority

  - Japanese writers construct image of 'Western culture' (focus: technology) → 'leave Asia, follow West'

  - First Sino-Japanese War (1894–1895): Japan victorious → confirms Japan's new 'Western' path

- Sinosphere: relevance for today?

  - North Korea as part of today's Sinosphere? Is there a return to the Sinosphere?

  - Is the collapse of a sphere always bloody? Will the Anglosphere remain a relatively short interlude?

→ caveat: Anglosphere is a descriptive, but not a properly analytical term

b) Language: Three Test Cases

4. **Harald Fischer-Tiné** – The (Post)-Colonial Careers of English in India (c. 1800–2000)

5. **Daniel Stotz** – Language Policy in Switzerland's Educational System: A Case of Anglo Encroachment?

6. **Daniel Schreier & Marianne Hundt** – The Evolution of World Englishes: From Unity to Diversity

4. Harald Fischer-Tiné – The (Post)-Colonial Careers of English in India (c. 1800–2000)

- India as a peripheral part of the Anglosphere → Linguistic understanding

- Status of English in Colonial India
  - Roughly until 1830s: *strategic multilingualism*
  - After 1830s: - English as *language of command*
                  - Change in the legal system: from Persian to English
  - End of colonial rule: less than 1% of population affected by language policies

- Educational institutions forming clerks → Creation of a hybrid group
  - Start making political claims around 1880s
  - The Baboo-Phenomenon: native gentleman → "tries to be more British than the British"

- 1890s: Anti-colonial politics
  - Language feminized (Goddess/Mother) → Movements for "purifying language"

- Independence: English as second official language (after Hindi)
  - Language as medium of communication
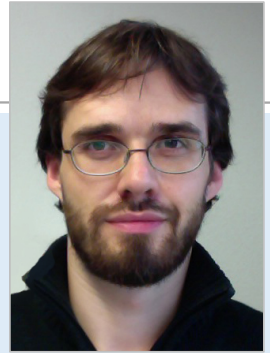 - Language as marker of social status

5. Daniel Stotz – Language Policy in Switzerland's Educational System: A Case of Anglo Encroachment?

- Meaning of Anglo-dominance? Depends …

  - Few top CEOs in major Swiss companies are Anglos

  - Anglosphere lagging behind Germany as trading partners

  - Immigration: Anglosphere not a major factor

- Multilingualism central to Swiss national identity – but not always clearly defined

  - There is no dark conspiracy of Anglo nations to impose their language on Switzerland.

  - Rise of English in schools = symptom of unresolved conflicts ('sucked into a vacuum')

- Tension: globalization vs. 'ethnification'

  - more English + more Swiss German → French loses out

  - Zurich as pioneer Canton in the promotion of English

6. Daniel Schreier & Marianne Hundt – The Evolution of World Englishes: From Unity to Diversity

- The rise of English as a global language

  - 1600: English = provincial → 1900: English = global

  - de Swaan: English = only "hypercentral" language (c. 12 supercentral, 150 central, 6000 peripheral)

- Three different models of English as a global language

  - Kachru: inner (= norm-providing), outer, expanding → inner circle = Anglosphere

  - McArthur: center (= World Standard English) + regional spheres (e.g. British & Irish Standard English)

  - Schneider: dynamic five-stage model for settler colonial language contact situations

- Case study: military coups in late 1980s → Fiji-Indian diaspora in New Zealand

  - generational conflict (for first generation, centrality of Hindi) – but this is only a general tendency

c) Cultural Explorations

7. **Laurenz Lütteken** – "Seid umschlungen, Millionen!": Musikalische Leitkulturen und das Problem des Englischen

8. **Ana Sobral** – Spreading the Hip-Hop Nation: Americanization of the World?

9. **Carmen Mörsch** – The Education/Formation of O_t_h_e_r_s through Art: Art, Education, and Empire

10. **Martin Mühlheim** – "Woven with Tram Lines": Zurich in Anglophone Literatures

7. Laurenz Lütteken – "Seid umschlungen, Millionen!": Musikalische Leitkulturen & das Problem des Englischen

- Outside of popular music, there has never been any Anglospheric dominance

  - From c. 1500 to 1780: dominance of French + Italian musical culture (e.g. *The Beggar's Opera*, 1728)

  - From c. 1780 to 1900: Italian opera + German instrumental music

  - BUT: English music produces interesting work through productive dissociation (e.g. 17th-cent. semi-opera)

- Classical music: (a) reach often underestimated; (b) contradictions under-explored

  - We know very little about global performance of opera (e.g. Verdi in Siberia, traveling groups of musicians)

  - American invite Dvořák – a foreigner – to help create national musical culture (→ New World Symphony)

- Theoretical: What does 'English music' even mean – unless we refer to the lyrics?

  - Seemingly American film music: conventions established by European emigrants to Hollywood

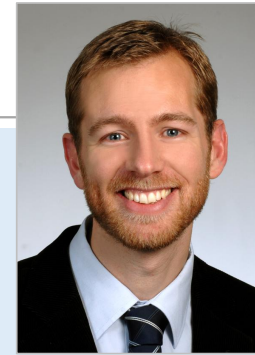## 8. Ana Sobral – Spreading the Hip-Hop Nation: Americanization of the World?

- Cultural globalization often perceived negatively as 'Americanization' of the world → BUT there is a more positive connotation focusing on spread of subversive and anti-hierarchical ideas precisely through popular music

- Hip hop's origins in New York City (the Bronx) in the 1970s: mode of expression of dispossessed African-American youth (as well as Puerto-Ricans and Jamaicans) → Focus on urban landscape (ghetto), marginality, race

- Spread to other US cities and diversification in the 1980s/90s followed by global spread (beyond US)
  - Stage of adoption → mimicking US models
  - Stage of adaptation → Incorporation of local features ('glocalization')

- Development of a global 'Hip Hop Nation' as the underlying culture to which all rappers respond: in form, style, content and expression of 'connective marginalities' (experiences of marginalization and difference)

- Importance of global hip hop for the expression of marginalized identities and the collective memory of a nation's/culture's 'Others' (not just in the US)

9. Carmen Mörsch – The Education/Formation of O_t_h_e_r_s through Art: Art, Education, and Empire

- Beginning of 18th century:
  - Expansion of Empire + New national identity
  - Questions about typical bourgeois art
  - O_t_h_e_r_s = contrasting foil → Imperial notion: inferior, uneducated

- Bourgeois disposition:
  - Art appreciation and philanthropy
  - Notion of 'public taste': also members of the lower classes to be educated in art

- Society of the Arts **vs.** Royal Academy of the Arts **vs.** The Nonsense Club (Sign Painter's Exhibition)
  - Art as civilising force + Artist as pedagogue + Educating O_t_h_e_r_s to attain taste
  - Art exclusive to select few + Artist as genius + Exclusion of O_t_h_e_r_s from art
  - Art as transgressive and "folk" + Artist as trickster + O_t_h_e_r_s as true, unrecognized artists → e.g. William Hogarth's *Beer Street* and *Gin Lane* (Sign Painter's Exhibition)

- Education of O_t_h_e_r_s through art always contains a hierarchical understanding → Not yet overcome (e.g. UNESCO's "Roadmap for Arts Education") though new movements try to oppose it (e.g. Another Roadmap)

10. Martin Mühlheim – "Woven with Tram Lines": Zurich in Anglophone Literatures

- Google Books, Ngram Viewer, Archive.org = new possibilities for research

  - Key concepts: distant reading (Franco Moretti), projected spaces (Barbara Piatti)

  - Archives not neutral: What has actually been digitized? Anglo-bias? What's missing from archives? etc.

  - Quality problems: bad tagging lead to false positives, false negatives, etc.

- Zurich in Anglophone Literatures: some findings

  - 1800–1875: History & religious conflict / 1875–1945 no dominant theme / post-1945: banks, spies, WWI & II

  - production: no unified picture of Anglospheric dominance (Ireland 'over-represented' → Joyce factor)

  - reception: Weight of individual texts? (e.g. "By the Margin of Fair Zurich's Waters" hugely influential)

- Significant absences = Anglospheric biases?

  - Women in Dada Zurich texts underrepresented; Swiss Literature more or less ignored; …

→ no strong evidence that Anglosphere is a useful concept in this type of research

d) Two Hot Spots

11. Ambassador Breifne O'Reilly & Shane Walshe – Ireland and Globalisation: Closer to Boston than Berlin?

- Is Ireland part of the Anglosphere?

  - 'racially': no (Colonial history, claim of inferiority, etc.

  - politically: no (not part of the Five Eyes; part of EU; BUT: strong 'informal' ties to U.S., e.g. St. Patrick's Day)

  - linguistically: 'English-speaking peoples' → yes (but missing from Kachru's diagram of global Englishes…)

- Boom, bust, and recovery: economic ties

  - "un 'american dream' à l'européenne" – but with financial crisis, it turns into nightmare (EU bailout)

  - still: very high level of investment from the U.S. (related to continuing low-tax regime for corporations)

- Ireland's place in the world: a set of challenges and conflicts

  - Brexit and the border; future of peace agreement; diaspora in the U.S. and beyond; …

12. Prem Mahadevan – The "Jihadosphere" vs. the Anglosphere: Convergence & Clashes of Intellect & Brutality

- 'Jihadosphere' = Universe with its own logic
  - Deterritorialized (virtual) → Community of militants fighting for territorial dominance + global ideological (re-)assertion
  - Double message: historical grievances (external) + superiority (internal)
  - Important role played by religious language → "Islamification of radicalism"
  - West/Anglosphere viewed as 'decadent'

- Jihad **vs** Jihadism
  - Territorial (self-)defense against an aggressor (e.g. Al Qaeda)
  - Fusion of political Islam + secular terrorism → Aim: conquer + control (e.g. ISIS) → terrorism as a way of forcing a "purification of faith"

- Islamism + Development of international Jihadism
  - Early 20th century: Rise of Orientalism (colonial othering) + end of Ottoman Caliphate + "Cataclysm of 1917" → Russian Revolution = New models for Islamism
  - After WWII: Six days war + Iranian Revolution + Invasion of Afghanistan → Consolidation of anger
  - 21st Century: Afghanistan and Iraq Wars → Jihadism goes cross-regional (incl. immigrants in the West) → Desire for political and cultural separation from Anglosphere

Concluding Points

- Anglosphere remains a controversial term
    - Actorly vs. Analytic Term → Importance to keep in mind the *perspective/positionality* of those who use the term (cp. Sinosphere)
    - Appropriation of the term for security/policy purposes → Promoting an idea of superiority? (c.f. origins of the closely related term 'Anglo-Saxon')
    - General sense of domination + hegemony implied by the term (cf. Jihadosphere as 'alternative' community)

- Prominence of *language* as a marker of:
    - 'Belonging' to the Anglosphere → cf. Ireland
    - Access to the implied 'social advantages' of English → cf. English in postcolonial India
    - Identity through acts of (self-)inclusion/exclusion → cf. Fiji-Indian English, Musical cultures, global hip hop

- Ongoing influence of colonial imperialism
    - Construction of Anglosphere's O_t_h_e_r_s
    - Rhetorical device in reaction against Anglosphere (e.g. Jihadosphere)

Thank you for your attention!