

**Presenters:**

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**Title:**

*Regional variation in speech act realisation: Namibian English and English English in contrast*

**Abstract:**

Namibian English (NamE) has only recently been put on the map of World Englishes, its characteristics already described at various levels of linguistic description (cf. Schröder 2021 for a collection of research articles). Despite the fact that this variety is a relative newcomer to the World Englishes (WE) paradigm, when compared to many other Post-colonial varieties of English, its pragmatics are comparatively well studied (see e.g. Schröder & Schneider 2018, 2021; Schneider & Schröder 2023; Stell 2024).

In this presentation, we will extend this body of research, systematically contrasting recent NamE data with parallel data from the UK, presenting results from a Discourse completion task (DCT) questionnaire study. We will discuss two speech acts, i.e. OFFERS and REQUEST, hitherto not analysed for NamE.

The study presented is innovative with regard to the bottom-up, ethnographically informed approach to research tool development and data analysis, reconciling Variational Pragmatics (e.g. Schneider 2021) and Postcolonial Pragmatics (e.g. Anchimbe 2018) research strands (see Schröder & Sickinger 2025 for details). Furthermore, we believe our methodological approach, referred to as Pragmatic Profiling (Sickinger & Schneider 2014), to be an ideal blueprint for the systematic introduction of pragmatic research into the WE paradigm.

**References:**

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