

## **‘Anywheres’ and ‘somewheres’: National and transnational voices in late modernity**

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Professor Devyani Sharma, Queen Mary University of London

Half a century of social dialectology has identified a number of enduring vectors along which prestige is conferred in Western speech communities, including class, region, and native speaker status. These are strongly associated with the classic and late modern epochs during which urban sociolinguistics developed, so much so that they seem quite universal. To what extent has the rapid increase in human mobility—migration, globalisation, transnationalism—disrupted these vectors of prestige? I investigate the transnational status of originally subaltern postcolonial varieties such as Indian English, with a particular focus on the circulation and perception of such varieties within the British context, where they have often been stigmatised as foreign and dysfluent (Rampton 2011). I first describe the subordinate status of Indian English in the modern era, and then present an experiment on changing perceptions of Indian English, Leeds English, and Received Pronunciation. The study assesses whether the rise of ‘anywheres’—those with mobile, portable ‘achieved’ identities based on educational and career success, even if non-native—is starting to displace and marginalise ‘somewheres’, who are more rooted to specific place and community (Goodhart 2017). The findings show a recent increase in positive valuations of Indian English in certain roles in the British context. However, I argue that these shifts are due to a reorganisation, not reduction, in hierarchy (Park and Wee 2011). I suggest, in line with recent research on new speakers (O’Rourke & Ramallo 2011), that a reorganisation of social class is occurring, such that signals of transnational, mobile and globalised life trajectories can be more highly valued in some contexts than modernist values of nationality, English nativeness, and place authenticity.