



Department of English

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New Books

Professor Jette Hansen Edwards has published a new book, *The Politics of English in Hong Kong: Attitudes, Identity, and Use* (2018, Routledge Series on World Englishes).

The focus of this book is on the impact of politics on language and identity in Hong Kong. The book is the first study to track real time language attitude changes against a divisive political landscape. It is also the most comprehensive study of language attitudes in Hong Kong to date, taking place over four years with over 1600 participants. Through both survey and interview data, a multifaceted portrait of language change in progress is presented, providing a more nuanced and complex view of language and identity than has previously been presented. The book examines the status of Hong Kong English in the light of attitudes towards Cantonese, English, and Putonghua, providing a deeper analysis of the linguistic complexity of Hong Kong; it can be argued that one cannot understand attitudes towards Hong Kong English without fully understanding the status and use of English in Hong Kong today. The book also presents a complex examination of language attitudes in Hong Kong by focusing not only on the *what* of language attitudes, but also the question of *for whom*, through an analysis of language attitudes by gender, age, identity, and speaking HKE.

Research and Conferences

Professor Hansen Edwards published a new journal article in collaboration with Mary Zampini and Caitlin Cunningham. The article is titled “Listener judgments of speaker and speech traits of varieties of Asian Englishes” and it is published in *The Journal of Multilingual and Multicultural Development* (available here: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01434632.2018.1549057>.)

Professor Hansen Edwards also gave a talk on *The Politics of English in Hong Kong: Attitudes, Identity, and Use* at the Hong Kong Sociological Association 20th Annual Conference on December 1, 2018.

The Department wishes everyone a warm and wonderful holiday season!