**The paradox(es) of English in Higher Education**

**Abstract:**

Universities in many parts of the world, not least in Anglophone countries, proclaim themselves as ‘international’. This tends to mean primarily that they recruit high fee paying (‘international’) students from other countries and teach them in English medium. Although there has recently been some discussion (if little change as a result) of global citizenship, cultural issues, and the like, the implications of English as HE’s lingua franca have so far been ignored. And so, despite numerous research-based publications on English as a Lingua Franca in HE settings, English is still seen as a peripheral matter, merely the subject of English language entry tests and remedial teaching in universities’ English language centres for students whose English differs from that of native users. Paradoxically, then, ‘international’ universities regard *national* English (typically British or North American) as a given, and do not consider the possibility that it is inappropriate in *international* academic settings, let alone that ‘international’ could logically be taken to imply a multilingual language policy rather than ‘English only’. In my talk I will discuss the findings of my recent empirical research (Jenkins 2014), demonstrate how the persistence of an out-dated approach to university English disadvantages both non-native and native English speaking students and staff, and explore what actions could be taken to internationalize universities in this respect.

**Biography:**

Jennifer Jenkins is Professor of Global Englishes at the University of Southampton and founding director of its Centre for Global Englishes. She has been researching English as a lingua franca since the 1980s, and has published numerous articles and chapters on the subject, as well as three monographs: *The Phonology of English as an International Language* (OUP 2000), *English as a Lingua Franca: Attitude and Identity* (OUP 2007), and *English as a Lingua Franca in the International University. The politics of academic English language policy* (Routledge 2014). She has also published a university course book, *World Englishes*, whose third edition is currently in press as *Global Englishes* (Routledge).