

**Project Title:**

**Empirical Sociolinguistics: An investigation of linguistic variation and/or change in English (RDF16/HUM/WALLAGE)**

**Project Description**

The PhD level sociolinguistic project will involve an empirical investigation of language variation and/or language change. The study may be macro or micro in design and incorporate quantitative and/or qualitative methods. It may employ sociolinguistic, experimental or corpus-based approaches.

We invite proposals on any relevant area of sociolinguistics, including, but not restricted to:

- i) Patterns of (socio)linguistic variation and change in varieties of English spoken in the UK, especially Northern English/Tyneside English;
- ii) Language attitudes/folklinguistics;
- iii) Sociolinguistic variation;
- iv) Historical (socio)linguistics and language change;
- v) Social psychology of language;
- vi) Superdiversity and multilingualism

The successful candidate will undertake PhD level study, working in tandem with similar sociolinguistic research currently being undertaken by Dr Phillip Wallage and Dr Robert McKenzie and associated PhD students in the English Language & Linguistics group at Northumbria University

<https://www.northumbria.ac.uk/about-us/academic-departments/humanities/research/english-research/english-language-and-linguistics/>

It is expected that candidates will have a background in linguistics or psychology. Applications from candidates with particular experience in the areas of variationist sociolinguistics, historical linguistics, social psychology of language, sociophonetics/speech perception and/or applied linguistics are especially welcomed.

The University of Northumbria has a large and lively postgraduate community in the Humanities. Our PhD students benefit from generous research space and resources in the recently expanded Glenamara Centre as well as the new Institute of the Humanities. PhD students develop a portfolio of skills and competencies through the Humanities Training Programme, the Teaching Shadowing Scheme, the annual PhD conference and the Graduate School's Professional Development and Research Training Programme. In addition, each PhD student is allocated a personal research allowance to be used for fieldwork costs and/or conference attendance as well as funding to support the organisation and development of research networks, conferences and seminar series.

**Faculty**

**Faculty of Arts, Design and Social Sciences**

**Department**

**Humanities, English Language and Linguistics**

**Principal Supervisor**

Dr Phillip Wallage

Senior Lecturer in English Language and Linguistics

Email: [phillip.wallage@northumbria.ac.uk](mailto:phillip.wallage@northumbria.ac.uk)

and

Dr Robert McKenzie

Senior Lecturer in Sociolinguistics

**Recent publications by supervisors relevant to this project [optional]**

Dr Phillip Wallage

Wallage, P.W. (2013) Functional differentiation and grammatical competition in the English Jespersen Cycle'. *Journal of Historical Syntax* 2(1): 1-25.

Wallage, P.W. (2012) Negative inversion, negative concord and sentential negation in the history of English'. *English Language and Linguistics* 16(1): 3-33.

Dr Robert McKenzie

McKenzie, R.M. (2015) UK University students' folk perceptions of spoken variation in English: The role of explicit and implicit attitudes. *International Journal of the Sociology of Language* 236: 31-53.

McKenzie, R.M. (2010) *The Social Psychology of English as a Global Language*. Dordrecht: Springer.

Deadline for applications: 18 March 2016

Interview date (if known): w/c 2 May 2016

Start Date: 3 October 2016