

Dani Schreier from the University of Zurich, Switzerland: Semester 2 2018

Where have you come from and what do you teach?

I am based at the University of Zurich, Switzerland, where I teach courses on synchronic English linguistics. My area of specialisation is language variation and change, the diffusion of English varieties around the world and the sociolinguistics of English as a world language.



is the unparalleled database on New Zealand English, covering the late 1850s to the early 21st century. It is a fantastic resource for studying dialect change over the years and for modelling change mechanisms. There is also a personal dimension: I spent my post-doc here, working on the Origins of New Zealand English project, so have been in contact

with several guest lecturers and held a publishing workshop for the benefit of PhD and post-doctoral students, sharing my insights as editor of the journal English World-Wide (Amsterdam: Benjamins).

What have you most enjoyed about your time here at UC/Christchurch?

I really enjoyed the amiable and friendly atmosphere at the Department, which has shown me clearly that first-class research and a spirit of collegiality go hand in hand. I have learnt a lot in terms of corpus compilation and handling and benefited from discussions with my colleagues and also my teaching experiences here. Plus: I had almost forgotten what a stunningly beautiful country New Zealand is - I will keep fond memories of my trips to the West Coast, Kaikoura and the Mount Cook National Park!