

## **English in Paradise?: Emergent Varieties in Micronesia**

The histories of the islands that belong to Micronesia are very diverse and interesting: They had contacts with different colonizers (Spain, Germany, Japan, Britain, Australia and the US are all implicated in at least some places); these colonizers arrived at different points in time; the types and intensities of contact were different; and finally, the consequences of these contacts are very different too. Today, some of these islands are politically independent, like Kiribati, Nauru (both formerly under British control) and Kosrae (part of the Federated States of Micronesia, formerly under US control), and others are still closely affiliated with the US, such as Saipan (in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) and Guam (territory of the US). As a linguistic consequence, English is now a state or national language and has prominence in educational and other social and political domains in all of Micronesia. However, Micronesian English varieties have not received a lot of attention in sociolinguistic terms yet, which is why our research team compiles and analyzes speech data from these island nations. We scrutinize models that describe the emergence of post-colonial Englishes, mostly based on British colonialization, and show how diverse histories, cultures, and political statuses influence the shaping of English varieties.