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‘One World, One English’

Kachru’s is a long-established and useful framework for the discussion of English as a world language. In addition, there are two main ways of imaging the varieties of English: Stevns’s family tree and the concentric circles of Görlach and McArthur. This paper presents an alternative way of dividing English, based on linguistic features, history, text type and domain. My approach draws attention to English as a single language, and focuses on features that are shared across the world, rather than the more traditional focus on features that differentiate the Englishes of one region from another. The way in which we conceptualise the (singular) English language affects the way in which we politicise English.