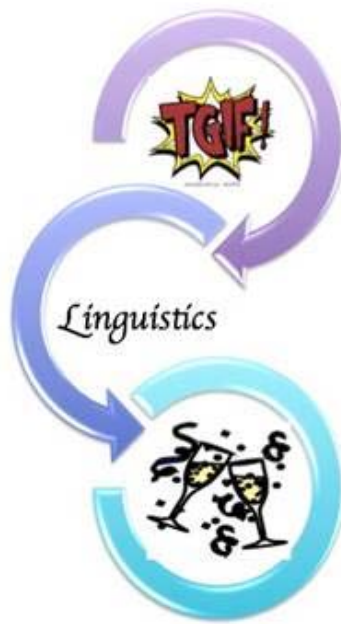


# TGIF: The NTU Linguist Chatroom

**Join us!**  
**Friday 17 April 2015, 2.30pm**  
**@ HSS Conference Room (HSS05-57)**



## Speaker

**Kingsley Bolton** is Professor of English linguistics at Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. Before joining NTU, Kingsley was Chair Professor of English at City University of Hong Kong and Stockholm University, Sweden, and taught for many years at The University of Hong Kong. He has published extensively on topics related to the history and use of English in China, Hong Kong and Asia. From 2003-04, he served as Elected President of the International Association for World Englishes (IAWE). He has published fifteen books (edited and authored), and numerous journal articles and book chapters. He is Co-Editor of the journal *World Englishes* (Wiley-Blackwell), and Co-Editor of the journal *Educational Studies* (Routledge). He is Founding Editor of the book series *Asian Englishes Today* (Hong Kong University Press), and *The History and Development of World Englishes* (Routledge). In addition, he is a Member of the Editorial Boards of *Applied Linguistics Review*, *Educational Studies*, *English Today*, *English World-Wide*, *Journal of World Languages*, and *Multilingual Education*. He has an active and ongoing research agenda on English in the Asian region, language and globalisation and language and media.

## Tough Talk: Bad men and bad language

This talk looks at the language of criminals from an historical perspective, beginning with lists of criminal language or 'cant' that date from 1567 in Elizabethan English. It then proceeds to trace the lineage that runs from glossaries of canting slang in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries to the London underworld of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, and US gangster movies of the modern era. Interestingly, while legal and lexicographical interest in the secret language of thieves seems to have waned in Britain and the US, glossaries of cant are still alive and well in some jurisdictions. In this context, the issue of so-called 'triad language' in Hong Kong has both an historical and a social relevance.

The TGIF seminar series is organised by



the Division of Linguistics and Multilingual Studies, HSS

