

## **Language testing at the border: Examining ‘secure English language testing’ policy in the United Kingdom**

**Dr. Luke Harding**  
Lancaster University, UK

In parallel with an increased focus on border security in immigration and citizenship policy in the United Kingdom, Government-approved English language tests for visa and immigration purposes have been officially labelled ‘Secure English Language Tests’ (SELTs). This paper will report on a project which drew on critical discourse studies to explore this issue. Documents provided in the 2014 tender round for selecting Secure English Language Tests (acquired through a Freedom of Information request) were analysed through a discourse-historical lens (Reisigl & Wodak 2016) to map topics and discursive strategies used to construct ‘secure English language testing’.

**When: Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> April 2018, 18:00h**

**Where: Unterrichtsraum 40528 (Geiwi, 5<sup>th</sup> floor)**

Luke Harding is a senior lecturer in the Department of Linguistics and English Language at Lancaster University. His research interests are in language testing, particularly listening assessment, pronunciation and intelligibility, assessor decision-making, language assessment literacy, and the challenges of World Englishes and English as a Lingua Franca for language testing. He has published *his work in Language Teaching, Language Assessment Quarterly, Language Testing, Assessing Writing*, and currently serves as the co-editor of *Language Testing*.