

ISLE Online Forum 2025

How much room for non-mainstream approaches in (English) linguistics?



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Details:

<https://www.isle-linguistics.org/activities/outreach>



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This can only be the beginning of a conversation addressing such a vast and multi-faceted topic. Together with moderator Bernd Kortmann, our three panellists will explore key questions like the following:

- Must linguistic inquiry necessarily be empirical (notably corpus-based or experimental) to be taken seriously?
- Does *empirical* automatically mean 'quantitative', and is *quantitative* by default about large and representative numbers? What about qualitative approaches or studies based on fine-grained linguistic analyses of small datasets?
- How can we better include the voices of lay observers with a deep familiarity and love for their native language? How can the discipline better value and integrate non-institutional voices and grassroots perspectives?
- Which spaces (should) exist in mainstream linguistics for non-professionals to contribute meaningfully to debates about language use and change?

Watch recordings of previous events via ISLE's YouTube channel (www.youtube.com/@isle2008)