

# ACCENTuate THE POSITIVE

## Perception of Accent and Authority among Classroom Instructors at Queen's University

### ACCENTS BELIEVED TO BE MORE RESPECTED



British  
Canadian  
Australian  
New Zealand  
Scottish  
Irish  
American (excluding Southern US)

### ACCENTS BELIEVED TO BE LESS RESPECTED



Chinese  
Indian  
Arabic  
Japanese  
South american  
African  
Eastern European

“There is a culture in Canada that gives authority to British accents (whether explicitly or implicitly) likely because of imperial history. I believe there are mythologies of authenticity relegated to accents based on listeners' assumptions about the world. many people assume authority based on the relation between accent and content.

Survey Participant

# WHY ARE SOME ACCENTS LESS RESPECTED?



## UNDERSTANDABILITY

*I believe they are less respected or viewed as less authoritative based on how easily they can be understood by the students. If the students can't understand a person's accent they may be less likely to respect them.*

Survey Participant



## UNCONSCIOUS BIASES

*Some people have racialized opinions about people based on their accent...canadians are taught to respect anglo-American-European accents because of a history of colonialism and imperial order.*

Survey Participant

## UNDERSTANDABILITY OR BIAS?

### LISTENING IS EVERYONE'S RESPONSIBILITY



*“Everyone's accent is foreign to a certain percentage of the audience, as everyone has an accent.”*

Survey Participant

GLOBAL CITIZEN ● GLOBAL ENGLISH ● GLOBAL ACCENT