

## **Why everyone should be interested in Northern English ‘t→r’.**

Given the workshop’s main aim to share information about interests, I discuss here the intriguing sociolinguistics, dialectology and phonology of the Northern English ‘t→r’ process, as an example of my general interests in Northern Englishes. ‘t→r’ is the phenomenon whereby word-final /t/ in a small class of words is realised as [r] if a following word begins with a vowel (eg, *not a* [nɒrə]).

The precise linguistic patterning and geolinguistic limits of ‘t→r’ are still not known, but it is interesting because (i) it’s a relatively well known feature, being frequently transcribed in contemporary Dialect Literature (and is thus of interest to those who aim to understand attitudes to recognisably Northern Englishes), (ii) it’s one of quite few features which might legitimately be described as ‘pan-northern’ (so anyone with an interest in the dialectology of the area should find it interesting), and (iii) it’s phonologically unusual as it combines lexical sensitivity with a post-lexical environment.