Accent is one of the most noticeable features of speech in fact, Jim Flege determined that native speakers can detect a foreign accent in as little as 30 ms of speech. Furthermore, Cliff Burgess and Derwing, Munro & Burgess showed that listeners can even detect foreign accents in speech played backwards. This sensitivity to the presence of an accent also has social ramifications that run the gamut from trivial observations to life and death situations. In this presentation, Tracey Derwing will synthesize research on L2 accents, including issues of attitudes, identity, the role of context, and pedagogical implications.