

# Language and Individuals Affect Typological Variation: A Cross-Linguistic Corpus Approach

Dr Danielle Barth  
ARC Centre of Excellence for the  
Dynamics of Language  
Australian National University



**When**  
Friday, 9 September  
5:00 pm (AEST)

**Where**  
Zoom ([link](#))

**More information**  
[info@sydneycorpuslab.com](mailto:info@sydneycorpuslab.com)

**Presented by the Sydney  
Corpus Lab**  
To find out more, visit  
<https://sydneycorpuslab.com>

The Social Cognition Parallax Interview Corpus (SCOPIC) is a cross-linguistic corpus designed to study aspects of interaction, engagement, social accounting and more interact with language. In a recent paper, we use this corpus and hierarchical modelling to examine what matters most for four case studies in linguistic variation: the language you use or your own individual choices (Barth et al. 2020). We find that both matter and statistical methods that can take both into account are better ones. This talk will describe the principles of the approach and the method we used. Our variation case studies include structural and semantic variables, which are more highly conditioned by context and features of interaction. The corpus approach benefits typological analysis because we can use a preponderance of evidence to see how language varies both within and between languages.