The Macquarie Laws of War Corpus (MQLWC)

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When
Thursday, 4 May
1-2 pm AEST (Brisbane,
Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney)

Where
Zoom (link)

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Corpus linguistics works in many fields, one of which is the field of law, including more recently in international law. In this presentation I introduce the Macquarie Laws of War Corpus (Lukin and Araújo e Castro, 2022), hosted at the Sydney Corpus Lab, and based on the international treaties and ancillary documents in the International Committee of the Red Cross' database of International Humanitarian Law. With the facilities of a corpus linguistics interface (based on CQPweb), these key texts in international law are now available with new research capabilities. I will demonstrate some basic searches of this corpus, and discuss the findings in the context of debates about the function of these texts. I will also briefly discuss the limitations of the corpus linguistics approach, and show why it must be integrated with a functional linguistic theory in order to be able to be able to explain and interpret the use of language in this significant legal context.

References
Lukin, A & Araújo e Castro, R. 2022. 'The Macquarie Laws of War Corpus (MQLWC): Design, Construction and Use', *International Journal for the Semiotics of Law - Revue internationale de Sémiotique juridique* (35), 2167-2186.