



Tracking variation and change in Australian English through corpus analysis

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When

Friday, 27 May 2022
12PM-2PM (AEST)

Where

Zoom

<https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/82899311879?pwd=d0VVVHhoTVFEejBRcENtcXVBOGIhUT09>

Meeting ID:

828 9931 1879

Password:

291147

This workshop is presented by the Sydney Corpus Lab.

Over 50 years of research in sociolinguistics (spearheaded by Labov, e.g. 1963) has demonstrated that patterns of language variation and change can be meaningfully studied via quantitative analysis of actual language use, as observed in spontaneous speech corpora. This hands-on workshop will introduce a new sociolinguistic corpus of Australian English, the Sydney Speaks corpus, which comprises 1.25 million words of time-aligned transcribed speech with 260 Sydneysiders of diverse ethnic and social class backgrounds, and birth dates ranging from 1890 to 1990. Participants will learn how to conduct corpus searches and extract data for analysis using the corpus-management tool LaBB-CAT (developed by the New Zealand Institute of Language, Brain and Behaviour). Participants will be taken through different kinds of searches for a range of linguistic variables (phonetic, morphosyntactic, discourse), and will get the opportunity to conduct guided searches of their own.

To learn more about the Sydney Speaks project, see this recent [Sydney Corpus Lab blog](#).