



Flow Piracy and Percolation in a Hydropower Watershed

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When

Friday, 12 August
12:00 midday (AEST)

Where

Brennan-MacCallum (Bldg A18)
Room 822 (8th floor common room)

And by Zoom:

<https://uni-sydney.zoom.us/j/88651330228>

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This paper explores causal relationships between infrastructure, physical geography, and social networks in a communicative economy of upland central Laos. I report on a recently-completed ARC Discovery project studying the dynamics of language contact in the context of a hydropower megadam in the Nakai Nam Theun (NNT) valley of Laos, in which several minority languages (Kri, Saek, and Bru) are spoken in close proximity, along with the two nation-state languages Lao and Vietnamese. The hydropower project has transformed local networks of transportation and inter-village contact, with effects on the language ecology. The study of this situation opens a window on theoretical questions of language's relation to theories of networks, assemblages, and infrastructures.