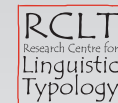




Research Centre for Linguistic Typology

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Hosted by:



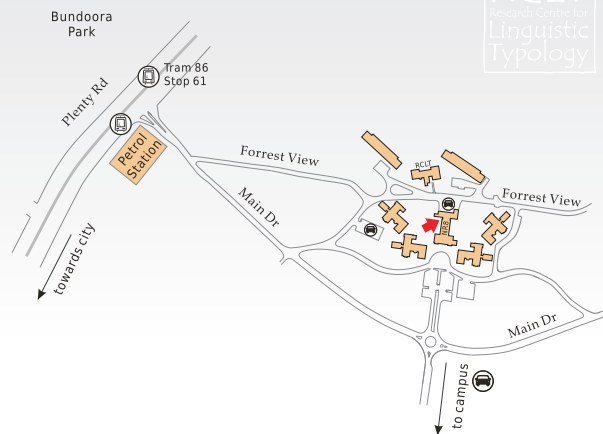
**RCLT**  
Research Centre for  
Linguistic  
Typology

Research Centre for Linguistic Typology



**Venue:**

Seminar Hall  
Institute for Advanced Study  
Building NR8  
La Trobe University  
Bundoora 3083 VIC



Melway maps 19G5 & 573F1-2

For a more detailed campus map, go to :

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/bg/maps.html>

and select one of the maps under the heading

Melbourne (Bundoora)

For other questions, please go to:

<http://www.latrobe.edu.au/rclt/>

or contact:

[rclt@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:rclt@latrobe.edu.au)

INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP

ON

# The Shaping of Language

*Relationships between the Structures of Languages and their Social, Cultural, Historical, and Natural Environments*

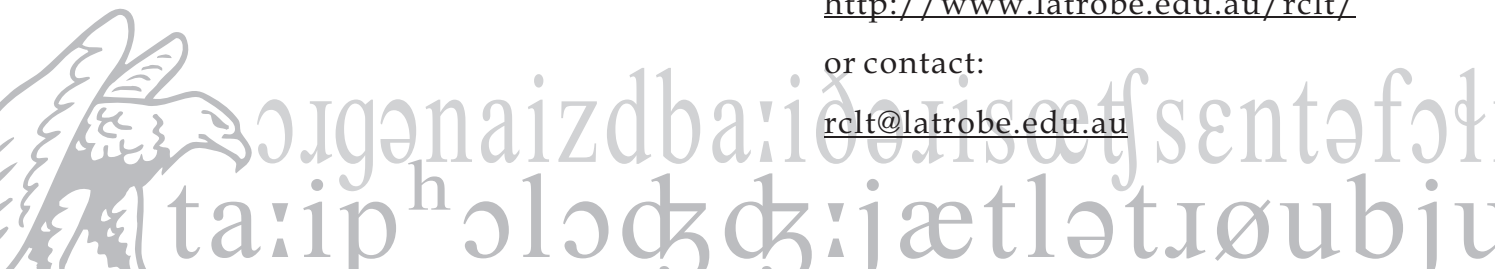
Wednesday, July 14 - Friday, July 16  
2010

Seminar Hall  
Institute for Advanced Study  
La Trobe University



Free entrance  
All are most welcome to attend

The Research Centre for  
Linguistic Typology  
Faculty of  
Humanities and Social Sciences  
La Trobe University



## Presenters:

David Bradley  
(La Trobe University)

Kate Burridge  
(Monash University)

Michael Clyne  
(University of Melbourne)

Randy LaPolla  
(La Trobe University)

Anna Martovich  
(University of Edinburgh)

Lev Michael  
(UC Berkeley)

Johanna Nichols  
(UC Berkeley)

Bill Palmer  
(University of Newcastle)

Tonya Stebbins  
(La Trobe University)

Uri Tadmor  
(Max Planck Institute, Leipzig)

Peter Trudgill  
(University of Agder)

Roberto Zariquiey  
(La Trobe University)

## Are languages shaped by the environments in which their speakers live?

### If so, how and to what extent?

- Are there correlations between **types of societies** and the languages they develop?
- Do factors related to the **geographic environment** or **lifestyle** of a community influence the structure of its language?
- What connections can be found between the **external history** of speakers and the **internal history** of a language's structural development?
- Some languages are spoken by millions of people on different continents. Others have very few speakers.
- Does **community size** correlate with grammatical structure and diachronic change?
- Are elaborate evidential systems associated with the **social structure** of a community?

- Is there a correlation between presence or absence of abstract vocabulary and **cultural differences**?
- Do languages with a **tradition of writing** evolve differently from languages without one?
- Do languages with different **writing systems** evolve differently?
- Do languages used in **electronic media** evolve differently from languages restricted to **face-to-face interaction**?
- Do **descriptive traditions**, such as grammar writing, play a role in the evolution of languages?
- What happens when **status planning** changes the social environment and the functions of a language?
- How can normative **cultural, religious and political factors** influence the structure of a language?
- What is the influence of **war and conflict** (or, alternatively, **peace and cultural exchange**) on languages?



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