

ALS 2019 Main conference themed panel

Call for Papers: Conversational Narratives within Small Communities

Organisers: Lesley Stirling, Joe Blythe, Ilana Mushin and Rod Gardner

This panel deals with the linguistic analysis of conversational narratives, focusing on communities and languages which are small, and/or remote, or marginal to Western industrialised societies, and thereby underrepresented in research in this area.

While a substantial amount of research has been conducted on narrative, including narratives of smaller non-Western language groups, a smaller proportion has focused on conversational narratives, as opposed to monologic recounts of culturally-important stories, or stories told within interview contexts. By conversational narratives we mean unplanned narratives that arise spontaneously in the sequential context of everyday interaction. These are often short and may lack expected elements such as a resolution. They raise questions about how and when people take the opportunity to talk in an extended way about their experiences, how others respond to such accounts, what shape they take, and whether and how they are ever co-constructed.

By examining such narratives within individual language communities, we contribute to our understanding of the cross-cultural and cross-linguistic diversity of (conversational) narrative, thus aligning with the conference theme of “Celebrating Diversity”.

This panel will consist of a double session of 2 x 90 minutes. Interested researchers are invited to submit an abstract for consideration, through the ALS EasyChair portal. For more information, contact Lesley Stirling lesleyfs@unimelb.edu.au