

## Setting typology on fire:

*Exploring the limits of lexical semantic variation*

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We often think of language's vocabulary as a chaotic, ever-expanding universe, far less orderly than grammar. Yet, we like to believe that some things are truly universal. Surely every culture talks about *sun*, *sleep*, or *fire* the same way—or do they?

In this talk, we dive into the fascinating field of lexical semantic typology to explore the true boundaries of linguistic variation. To set the stage, I will summarize some of the key findings that have defined this field so far, examining the delicate balance between universal human cognition and culture-specific categorization.

Finally, I will introduce my new research project centered on the domain of **fire**. Though the project is in its early stages, it offers a perfect window into how biology, environment, and linguistic structure work jointly to shape the way we name the world around us.