

“The big, bright future of linguistics”

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Big(ish) data are coming to linguistics. This deluge of data will inevitably drive the development of computational methods to handle this volume of data, and hopefully empower new “big picture” questions about patterns of linguistic diversity. In this talk I will describe some of the global databases that are being developed at the Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History in Jena. I will outline the range of questions we are tackling and argue that the bright future of linguistics increasingly lies in collaborative interdisciplinary teams.