Dagmar Divjak

What can be learned from usage?
Reconciling descriptive accuracy and cognitive reality using corpus data, large and small.

In this talk I will present work done as part of the Leverhulme-funded Out of Our Minds project in which we set out to change the ways in which languages are described, modelled and taught. By taking an interdisciplinary approach involving linguistics, psychology and engineering we aim to propose a new way of describing language data that yields a cognitively plausible description of speakers' linguistic knowledge by scrutinizing the process of how that knowledge comes about, i.e. through learning. To achieve this goal, we implement the requirement for cognitive reality in linguistic analysis at the theoretical, methodological and descriptive levels.