Workshop on the grammar of social cognition. Lima, September 2019

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Social cognition takes in all we need to know and communicate to live with other human beings. How are they related to each other (kinship)? What are their inner thoughts, and how do they report what was said and what people think (represented thought, intention and speech)? What do we feel (emotion)? Are you paying to attention to what I am talking about (engagement)? And much more.

Recent documentary and typological work has revealed wide differences in how languages represent social cognition in their grammars. Many languages have special morphology for representing kinship relations, even in their pronouns. Constructions which in English or Spanish involve complementation are often rendered by direct speech, e.g. ‘He wants John to come’ as ‘He says/goes: “John, come!”’. Many languages, such as Japanese and some Barbacoan languages, are strict about what subjective statements (wants, feelings) can be expressed directly (I want/am lonely, Do you want/are you lonely?) and what must be expressed only with reference to behaviour (She gives signs of wanting/being lonely), reflecting a more rigorous difference between the subjective and externally observable worlds than is made in European languages. And recent work has revealed a number of languages (e.g. in Kogi in Colombia) with complex grammatical machinery for monitoring ‘engagement’ – keeping track of the relative attention/knowledge of speaker and hearer.

This workshop will comprise a series of framing overview talks by Nicholas Evans on the topic of grammar and social cognition (including the use of the ‘Family Problems Task’ to collect naturalistic “parallax” data across languages), presentations by workshop participants about work on languages of Latin America on any of the above topics, plus general discussions at the end of each day. Paper proposals are invited in English, Spanish or Portuguese, giving a title plus short abstract.

Preliminary reading:

Barth, Danielle & Nicholas Evans (eds.). 2017. *The Social Cognition Parallax Corpus (SCOPIC)*. *Language Documentation and Conservation* *Special Publication No. 12*. http:/hdl.handle.net/10125/24739

Evans, Nicholas. 2003. Context, culture and structuration in the languages of Australia. *Annual Review of Anthropology* 32:13-40.

Evans, Nicholas. 2009. *Dying Words: Endangered languages and what they have to tell us.* Maldon & Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell. The Language Library. Ch. 3. ‘Your mind in mine: social cognition in grammar.’ Pp. 69-80.

Evans, Nicholas, Henrik Bergqvist & Lila San Roque. 2018a. The grammar of engagement: Part I, Fundamentals. *Language and Cognition*. 10:110-40. DOI: 10.10.1017/langcog.2017.21

Evans, Nicholas, Henrik Bergqvist & Lila San Roque. 2018b. The grammar of engagement: Part II, Typology. *Language and Cognition* 10:141-70. DOI: 10.1017/langcog.2017.22

San Roque, Lila, Alan Rumsey, Lauren Gawne, Stef Spronck, Darja Hoenigman, Alice Carroll, Julia Miller & Nicholas Evans. 2012. Getting the story straight: language fieldwork using a narrative problem-solving task. *Language Documentation and Conservation* 6:134-173.