

# Mirima Linguistic Forum

Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018, 1:15pm

Mirima Dawang Woorlab-gerring Language and Culture Centre (MDWg) would like to announce its 18<sup>th</sup> Linguistic Forum to take place on Tuesday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 2018, starting at 1:15pm. The forum will be held at Mirima Language Centre, Kununurra.

We are very pleased to announce the following presentation:

## **Conversational Interaction in Aboriginal and Remote Australia (CIARA)**

by Dr Joe Blythe,  
Macquarie University, Sydney

### **Bio:**

Joe Blythe is an Interactional Linguist specialising in Australian Indigenous languages. He conducts field research on the Murrinhpatha language of the Northern Territory and on the Gija and Jaru languages from northern Western Australia. Joe has held post-doctoral fellowships at the ANU, the MPI Nijmegen and the University of Melbourne and has been a Lecturer for the Department of Linguistics at Macquarie University, Sydney, since 2016.

*The Mirima Linguistic Forum is an initiative by MDWg to bring together people with an academic interest in Indigenous studies. While our focus is on language and culture, ideally with a reference to local Indigenous matters, we welcome contributions on related topics. Presentations occur in an informal and relaxed atmosphere and we leave plenty of time for discussion and exchange. The forum is open to all; if you happen to be in the Kununurra area and would like to present on a topic of interest - please let us know: [info@mirima.org.au](mailto:info@mirima.org.au).*

ABSTRACT:

## **Conversational Interaction in Aboriginal and Remote Australia (CIARA)**

Joe Blythe, Lesley Stirling, Ilana Mushin and Rod Gardner

How different is the organisation of conversation across different cultures and different languages? How is it similar? Are perceivable differences between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal interactional styles to be explained as cultural difference or linguistic difference, or might they relate to demographic factors such as *age* or *locality* (as urban/regional/remote locations). The CIARA project will provide the first large-scale exploration of conversational style in Australia. We will re-visit often cited claims that Aboriginal Australians conduct conversations in ways that are fundamentally different to Anglo-Australians. We will record and transcribe Australian English multiparty conversations in remote Kimberley and rural Victorian towns, and compare these with multiparty conversations conducted in four endangered Aboriginal languages (Gija, Jaru, Garrwa and Murrinhpatha), and in Kriol, from remote communities in WA and the NT.

By documenting everyday language use within casual familiar settings, we will learn more about possibly different cultural expectations surrounding the use of eyegaze, and the timing of responses to questions, and whether these or other interactional factors contribute to Aboriginal disadvantage in legal, educational and medical settings.