

## **Event construal in L1 and L2: linguistic and cognitive perspectives**

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Events are everywhere: we see people heading towards places in many different manners every day (motion events), plus, we see people interacting with objects, thereby potentially changing them, (e.g., peeling a banana; change of state events) continuously. Understanding events requires attentional and memory resources. Talking about events is in fact also quite complex, as it requires an integration of different conceptual domains (space, time, people and objects and their roles in an event), that have to be ‘transferred’ into a coherent sentence, using different lexical and grammatical means. Interestingly, crosslinguistic differences in grammar and lexicon have been shown to influence event construal. In this talk I will focus on crosslinguistic differences in verb semantics, and how native speakers and L2 learners of typologically diverse languages deal with the task of construing events in their L1 and L2, focused on German, French, Spanish and Dutch.