

# Charting childhood development: language, cognition and diversity

**Prof. Evan Kidd**  
**Australian National University**

Date: 5 February 2026 (Thursday)  
Venue: Room 220, Fung King Hey Building

Session 1: Keynote Speech (Open to the public)  
Time: 9am - 10:15am

Session 2: Workshop (Lab members only)  
Time: 10:15am - 12:30pm



## Abstract

Title: Linguistic diversity in child language acquisition research: Moving forward.

Disciplines within the psychological and cognitive sciences are currently within an extended period of soul searching concerning their ability to explain the full range of human behaviours. This includes the field of child language acquisition, which has disproportionately focused on English and a handful of other commonly spoken languages. In this talk I review language coverage in the field and discuss new initiatives to expand the languages children learn and the contexts in which they learn them. I will largely focus on the Sketch Acquisition Project, a long-term initiative aimed at increasing language coverage in a tractable and cost-effective manner.

## Speaker Bio

Evan Kidd is a Professor of Linguistics at The Australian National University. He works on language acquisition (including first language acquisition, bilingualism, and second language acquisition) and adult language processing.