



MONITIETEINEN IHMISEN MONIMUOTOISUUS ESITELMÄSARJA
INTERDISCIPLINARY HUMAN DIVERSITY SEMINAR SERIES

Glottography Workshop – Global Geolinguistic Data and an R Package to Study Language Diversity

Wednesday 3.3.2026 at 12.15-15.00 by



UNIVERSITY
OF TURKU

PhD Peter Ranacher

School of Languages and Translation Studies

Location: [Arcanum A270](#)



Programme

12.15–12.30 Outi Vesakoski: Opening words – *Human Diversity and Language Ranges*

12.30–13.00 Peter Ranacher: *Glottography: Mapping the World's Languages*

13.00–13.15 Discussion

13.15–13.30 Break: Coffee and tea served

13.30–15.00 Demo + Hands-on: *Using the Glottography R Package*

Abstract

Humans speak, sign, and write in more than 7,000 languages. Some span entire continents, while others are spoken in areas no larger than a single village. Glottography is the first open-data initiative for mapping the spatial distribution of the world's languages. It represents speaker areas as georeferenced spatial polygons, enriched with relevant metadata. Specifically, Glottocodes link each polygon to a unique identifier in Glottolog, a database cataloguing the world's dialects, languages, and language families. In this talk, I first introduce the status quo of language mapping before Glottography, highlighting the need for an independent and open approach. I describe Glottography's design philosophy and explain how it accounts for language areas as socially constructed spaces rather than crisp spatial objects. I then present Glottography's current coverage and compare it to existing proprietary platforms. Finally, I discuss potential avenues for using Glottography data in computational analyses to explore the origins, distribution, and drivers of global linguistic diversity.

In a follow-up hands-on workshop, I introduce the Rglottography package in R, demonstrating how to create clear, publication-ready language maps and perform basic statistical analyses on Glottography data.

Talks via [Zoom](#). For the Demo & Hands-on, please [sign up](#) by Sunday, 1 March.

More information: <https://sites.utu.fi/humandiversity/event/>

Credits from Human Diversity -seminars: [HuDi0001-course](#) (2 ects)



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