

## **Language learners' creative uses of TikTok for informal language learning**

*Yeong-Ju Lee*

This presentation introduces a case study of five international students learning English in Australia, which investigated the creative uses of emerging image-based social media as resources for informal language learning. Drawing on ecological perspectives on language learning and spatial views on digital technology and learning, the study examined how the students incorporated the use of TikTok into their language learning and everyday lives. A narrative approach to the analysis was adopted based on the data gathered from journal entries, stimulated recall interviews, and social media posts. The findings revealed how they adapted their multimodal experience of learning into technological innovations in TikTok's features. The findings also revealed how they utilised those features as their linguistic resources in response to the affordances that emerged in everyday communicative situations and spaces. The individual language learning consisted of numerous spaces and resources that an individual used and created in the course of unique learning journey. This study provides deep insights into the current reality of informal language learning that occurs in daily life spaces where learners access social media with devices and mobilities.

**Bio:** Yeong-Ju Lee (Crystal) is a PhD candidate in Linguistics, Macquarie University. She has recently submitted her PhD thesis including one article published, a book chapter in press, and three more articles under review in Q1 journals. Her areas of research interest are informal language learning, digital technology, and learning space/environment.