

Computational Phylogenetic Methods and Austronesian Subgrouping

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In this talk we will outline the power and potential pitfalls of applying Bayesian phylogenetic methods to the task of inferring linguistic relationships. We will analyze a large database of basic vocabulary for over 300 Austronesian languages (see <http://language.psy.auckland.ac.nz/>). The ability of Bayesian phylogenetic methods to recover accepted Austronesian subgroups and generate novel results will be discussed.