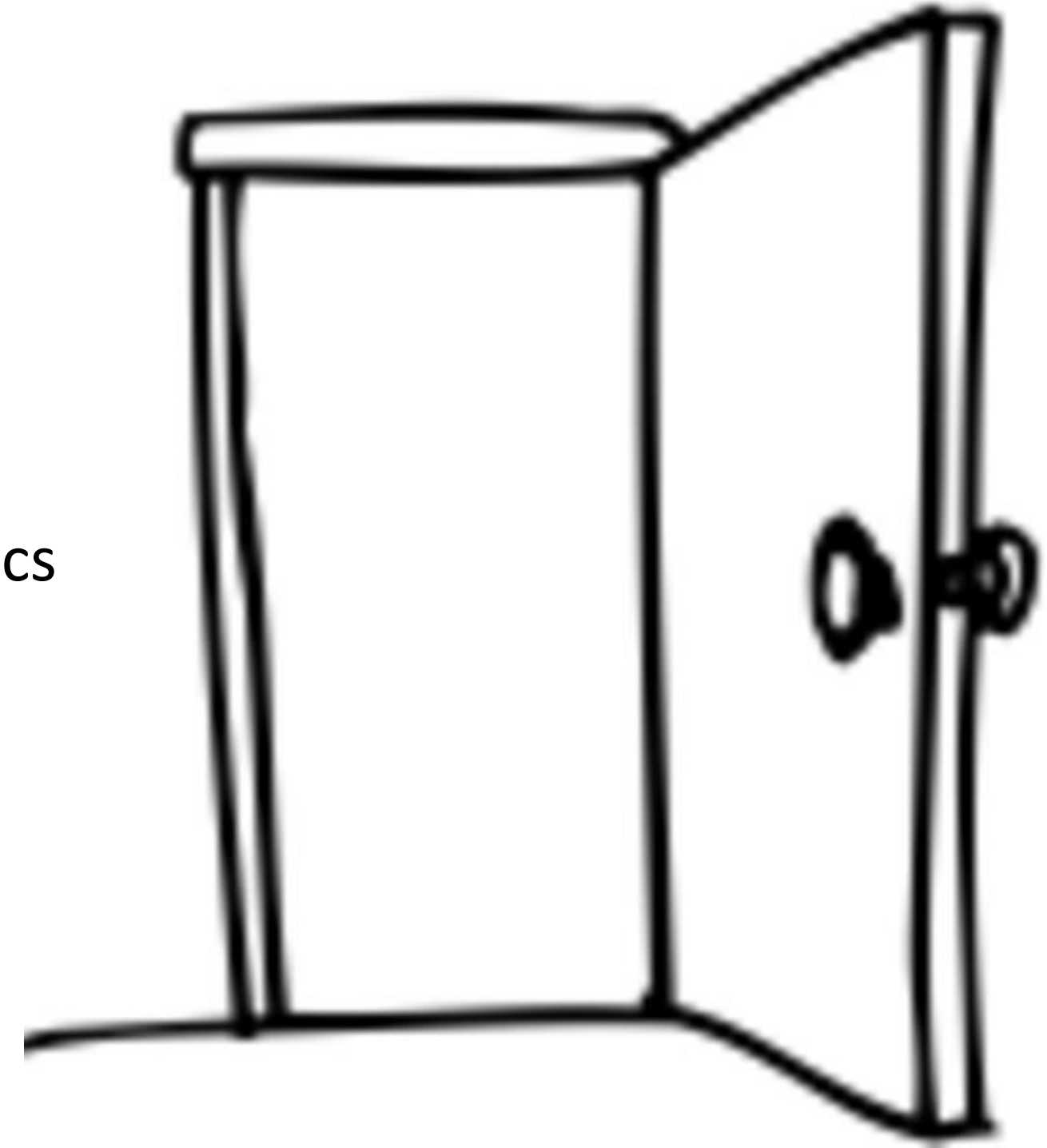
Open research group

ESRC Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Science

Lancaster University

- Open space for ideas
- Corpus linguistics and statistics
- Research community



https://cass.lancs.ac.uk/open-advanced-methods-research-group/

Finish update

CASS

ESRC Centre for Corpus Approaches to Social Science

ABOUT US BLOGS CASS PROJECTS CASS: BRIEFINGS

Open Advanced Methods Research Group

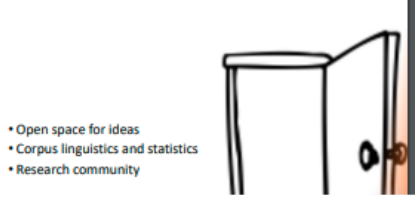
ed-methods-research-group/

Finish update

– 12:00pm–12:50pm (UK time): R Scripts and

n research group

for Corpus Approaches to Social Science
Lancaster University



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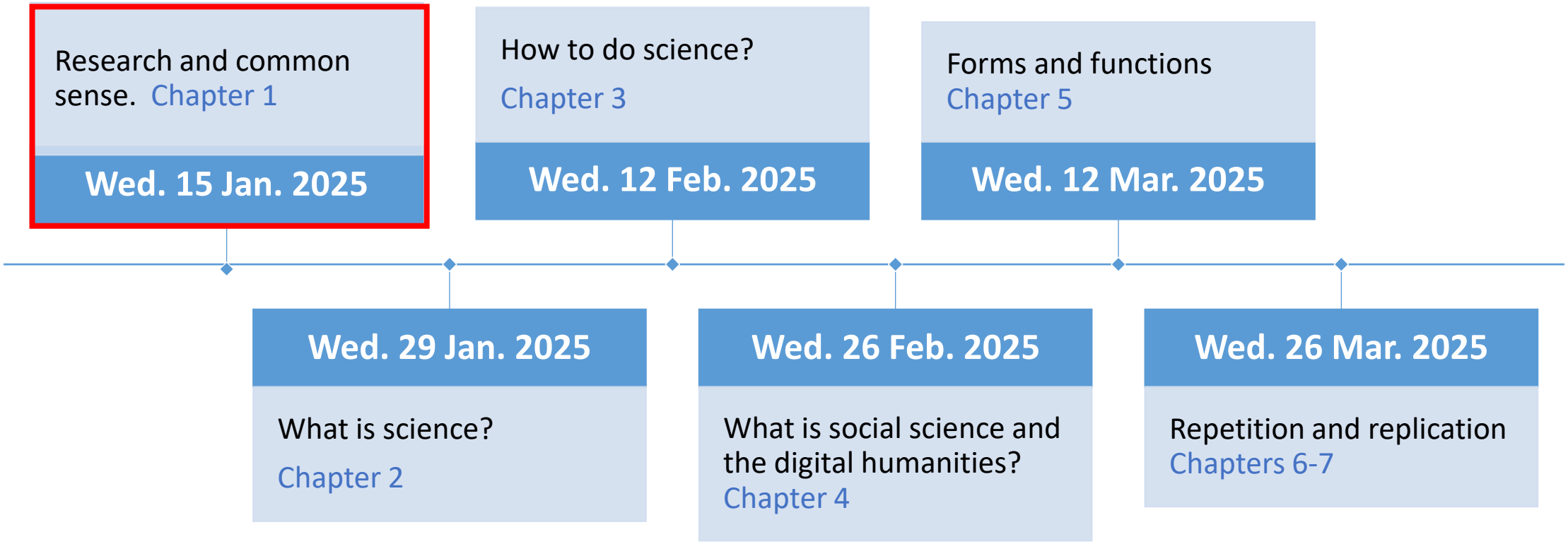
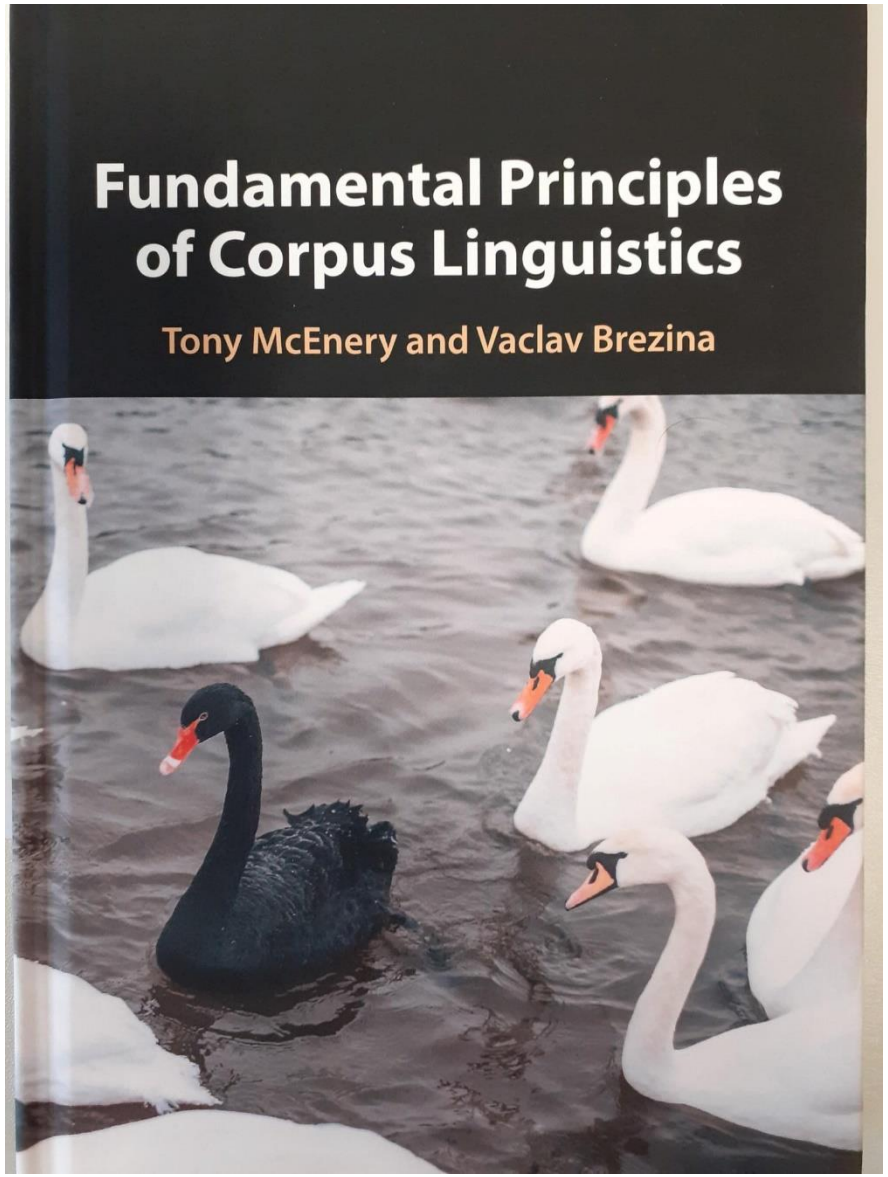
Meeting1 Download

Camera on, sound off if possible

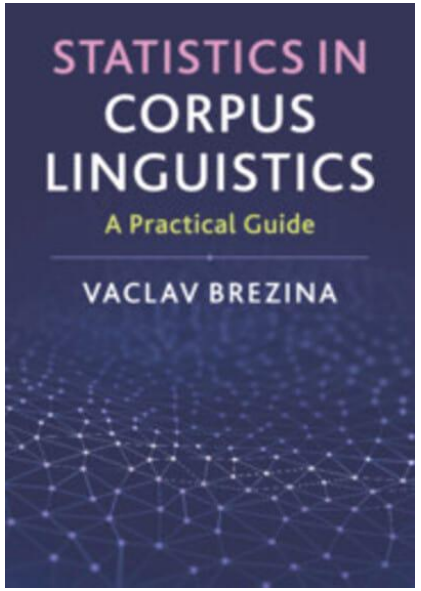
Topics: spring term

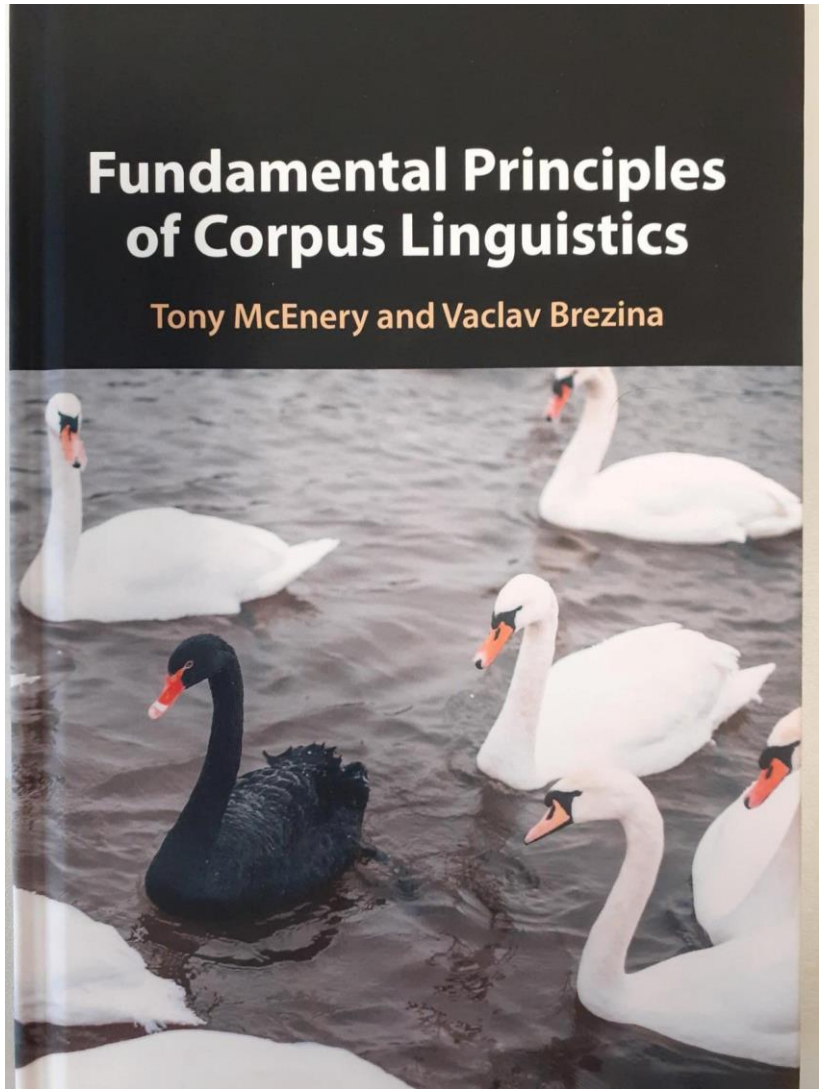




"[I]n many cases, the most powerful statistical technique is common sense.

(p. 284)





“

On 20 March, the GBR Marine Park Authority in Townsville, Australia, reported that divers were finding extensive coral bleaching—the loss of symbiotic algae—in remote northern areas of the reef. Many sections were already dead. Subsequent flyover surveys have confirmed an unfolding disaster, with only four of 520 reefs appearing unscathed.[8]

There is no scepticism in this text. There is an engagement with probability, but no denial of reality. There is no suggestion that coral reefs are the projection of the mind. There is no attempt to say that while the author believes certain coral reefs have died, the reader may choose to believe that this is not so. The position of realism is accepted in science to the extent that the other positions are bracketed away. We can see similar processes at work in corpus linguistics too – Leech (2011) titles his article arguing for the decline of modal verbs in English ‘The modal verbs ARE declining’. His certainty, which will be explored in Chapters 6 and 7 of this book, brackets away positions just as neatly as the example given previously. Common sense, the tool we use to do this here, is widely appealed to in science, as shown in this quote from physicist Max Born:

The simple and unscientific man’s belief in reality is fundamentally the same as that of the scientist. (Born 2012: 16)

Think about and discuss

1. What is reality?
2. Do you agree with the ‘common sense’ position outlined in the reading?
3. What are the major challenges in your research area?

Opportunity for next week:
5 min. presentation

What scientific processes (methods, protocols, assumptions etc.) do you use in your research?