Generative Linguistics and Generative AI

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Slides 1–44/183
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Rm: Comm 311
https://arizona.zoom.us/j/83224247918

All That Sparkles Is AI

Title: **Generative Linguistics and Generative AI**
Date/Time: October 10th 2025, 3pm
Location: Communications Bldg. 311
Zoom: arizona.zoom.us/j/83224247918
Speaker: Sandiway Fong
Abstract:

Modern *Generative Linguistics* has around a 70 year history with roots going further back; for example, Chomsky, in particular, has cited Einstein, von Humboldt, Descartes, and Galileo as inspiration. In contrast, *Generative AI* has come firmly to the fore only recently, but has its roots in classic machine learning. As human language has been a focus of Generative AI, the success of largely-opaque *Large Language Models* (LLMs) have led some, such as Piantadosi, Futrell & Mahowald and Hinton, to pit AI against Generative Linguistics. In the first part of this talk, I will discuss the considerable impact of Generative AI, review these claims against Generative Linguistics, and also explain relevant aspects of the inner workings of LLMs.