

## **Passive constructions: Universals and language description**

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This talk will start out from an interest in passive universals and general-theoretical issues and then move to the methodological question of how to identify passives for cross-linguistic comparison. Finally, I will emphasize that language-particular description is only indirectly related to comparison: It can profit from it via transparency and inspiration, but fieldworkers are independent of general theorists in developing their analyses.