# The Making and Breaking of Classification Models in Linguistics: A Multimethod Perspective on AlternationsJane Klavan (University of Tartu, Estonia)

**Keywords:** linguistic variation, Estonian

In my talk I focus on combining various linguistic methods to find out what we can infer about linguistic variation from the patterns and structures we see in the language data.
The case study I present comes from the Estonian language and pertains to the alternation between the exterior locative cases and the corresponding adpositions. I will first fit a machine classifier (mixed-effects logistic regression) to the corpus data in order to see which variables contribute significantly to the model fit.
The second part of the talk looks at the results of linguistic experiments (a forced choice task and an acceptability rating task) carried out on the same phenomenon.
The discussion of the talk highlights some of the pros and cons of combining corpus-linguistic and experimental methods for the study of alternations.