Abstract. How do we talk about space, such as number lines or abstract landmarks? How do we talk about car accidents or other dangerous events we witness? How do we make sense of political messages? The answer lies in our everyday experience with space and our need to convey meaningful descriptions to others. The presentation will include discussion of results from comprehension and production experiments designed to uncover people’s conceptions of relatively complex or abstract linguistic phenomena that are ultimately grounded in the dynamic construal of space, including fictive motion and linguistic aspect.

Teenie Matlock is Founding Faculty and Associate Professor of Cognitive Science at UC Merced, and Affiliate Faculty in the Institute for Cognitive and Brain Studies at UC Berkeley. Her main research interests lie at the intersection of language and cognition, and she has a strong interest in the connection between language and space. Her publications span cognitive linguistics, psycholinguistics, and human-computer interaction. Matlock completed her PhD in Experimental Psychology at UC Santa Cruz after starting her graduate studies in linguistics at UC San Diego. After working as a research associate at Stanford University, she accepted one of the first faculty positions at UC Merced, and laid the foundation for its Cognitive and Information Sciences program. Matlock currently serves as a standing member of NIH Language and Communication study section, and is the recipient of the Academic Senate Distinguished Undergraduate teaching award and the Sigma Xi Young Investigator award. Originally from Mariposa, California, Matlock is actively involved in outreach activities, and is Vice Chair of the American Indian Council of Mariposa County.