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**Angry Animals Abound: Metaphors of Anger with the
DANGEROUS ANIMAL Source Domain across Languages**

Humans have long sought to distinguish themselves from animals, claiming qualities like reason, sophistication, and divine likeness. Yet when anger flares, that boundary blurs. Across languages and cultures, angry people are frequently described in animalistic terms, giving rise to a rich metaphorical tradition surrounding this emotion, filled with imagery of dangerous, uncontrollable creatures. This recurring conceptual metaphor, most frequently called anger is a dangerous animalin Cognitive Linguistics, will be the focus of the final lecture in the BMC’s *Angry Spring* lecture series.

Building on data from 21 languages featured in Kövecses et al. (2025a, 2025b) for which the existence of this metaphor (or a variant thereof) has been postulated, I will explore how this metaphor surfaces across different linguistic landscapes, examining its presence in both the respective lexical and corpus-based studies. I will trace how its salience shifts within individual languages and address challenges in consistently demarcating the metaphor's boundaries. Special attention will be given to issues of source-domain specificity, highlighting variation between references to specific animals and more generic, undefined animal entities.

Further, I will argue that what is typically treated as a unified conceptual metaphor in fact comprises two related, yet distinct clusters of metaphorical expressions: those in which the target domain is the concept of anger itself and those in which the target domain is the angry person. I will consider why these clusters have traditionally been grouped together, pointing to both academic convention and the metaphor's reliance on metonymic structures as contributing factors.

Through this exploration, the lecture aims to refine our understanding of how a single metaphor can manifest across languages and conceptual systems, focusing both on variation and that which can be seen as (near-)universal.

**References:**

Kövecses, Z., Benczes, R. & Szelid, V. (2025a). *Metaphors of ANGER across Languages: Universality and Variation: Volume 1: From Akan to Italian*. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Mouton.

Kövecses, Z., Benczes, R. & Szelid, V. (2025b). *Metaphors of ANGER across Languages: Universality and Variation: Volume 2: From Japanese to Ukrainian*. Berlin, Boston: De Gruyter Mouton.