



## NSW DIVISION TECHNICAL MEETING

### The Challenges of Aviation Communication

**Date:** Thursday, 23 August 2018

**Venue:** Western Sydney University, Parramatta City Campus, 169 Macquarie Street. Conference Room 4 (PC-01.9.29), Level 9.

See map:

[www.westernsydney.edu.au/campuses\\_structure/cas/campuses/parramattacity](http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/campuses_structure/cas/campuses/parramattacity)

**Time:** 6:00pm for 6:45pm start  
*Refreshments prior to talk*

**Speaker:** Dr Dominique Estival, MARCS Institute, Western Sydney University

**RSVP:** Thursday, 16 August 2018 to Paul Maddock by email:  
[Paul.Maddock@epa.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Paul.Maddock@epa.nsw.gov.au)  
Open to AAS members and guests.



“Between 1976 and 2000, more than 1,100 passengers and crew lost their lives in accidents in which investigators determined that language had played a contributory role”.

Aviation English is the international language of aviation communication between pilots and Air Traffic Control (ATC) but is not always error-free. Problems can be exacerbated when one or more of the speakers use English as a second (or third) language. Conducted from a human factors and a linguistic perspective, research on communication errors made by pilots looked at the factors impacting communication accuracy. Results from experiments conducted in a flight simulator and from a recent study of LiveATC recordings at Sydney airport will be presented.

Dominique Estival holds a PhD in Linguistics from the University of Pennsylvania. As a linguist, her research spans the computational modelling of language change, machine translation, linguistic engineering, spoken dialogue systems and aviation communication (Estival, Farris & Molesworth, 2016). As a pilot and a flight instructor, she has first-hand experience of student pilots’ difficulties with radio communication and she studies how pilot training, language background and contextual factors affect pilots’ ability to communicate while flying.

Her recent book “Aviation English: A lingua franca for pilots and air traffic controllers” will soon appear in paperback.