Developers of semantic annotation schemes intended to be used across different languages face a number of issues not encountered in monolingual annotation. How does one accommodate cross-linguistic variation with the need for cross-linguistic comparability? This is of course a similar problem to that faced by typologists. This talk discusses four issues: the establishment of a set of annotation categories; the treatment of languages with more fine-grained categories; languages with more coarse-grained categories; and languages with cross-cutting categories. We propose that a lattice-like architecture of the annotation categories can adequately handle all four issues, and at the same time remain both intuitive for annotators and faithful to typological insights. We will illustrate our approach with proposals for annotation categories for TAM (tense, aspect, modality) categories. This research is part of a joint project with linguists and computer scientists at the University of Colorado and Brandeis University.