

# Graduate school IGRA

Summer Term 2014

*Courses open to all interested*

## IGRA 00

- Instructors:** Doreen Georgi & Eva Zimmermann
- Time:** Compact course, SR H1 5.16
- Topic:** Preparatory crash course on grammatical building blocks (Phonology, Morphology, Syntax)
- Description:** This course gives an overview of important concepts and mechanisms of theoretical phonology, morphology, and syntax and central empirical phenomena that pose interesting challenges and/or constitute evidence for a certain theoretical framework.
- The phonology part of the course mainly centers around Optimality Theory (OT, Prince & Smolensky 1994/2002): the framework is introduced and various versions of OT are discussed (Stratal OT, Sympathy Theory, Containment, Harmonic Grammar), especially those that are relevant to the discussion of opacity. We will also focus on phenomena that are situated at the boundary between morphology and phonology (non-concatenative morphology, linearization of morphemes, allomorphy) and possible theoretical accounts of them.
- In the morphology part, we will study the framework of Distributed Morphology (Halle & Marantz 1993, 1994), a realizational model of inflectional morphology, and will investigate how it captures syncretism and extended exponence.
- As for the syntactic part of the course, we will start with an introduction to the basic assumptions about structure-building in Minimalism (Chomsky 1995 et seq.) and continue with constraints on the basic operations Merge/Move and Agree (island constraints, successive-cyclic movement, minimality conditions, strict cyclicity etc.). Empirically, we will focus on argument encoding phenomena (case and agreement) at the syntax-morphology interface (nominative-accusative vs. ergative-absolutive encoding patterns, hierarchy effects).
- References:** - will be provided

## IGRA 01

- Instructors:** Gereon Müller, Nina Topintzi & Jochen Trommer
- Time:** Friday, 11:15 – 12:45, SR H1 5.16
- Topic:** Interacting Building Blocks in Phonology, Morphology, and Syntax I: Excitatory and Inhibitory Sequential Interactions
- Description:** This course is concerned with techniques and effects of ordering rules in phonology, morphology, and syntax, based on concepts like bleeding, feeding, counter-bleeding, counter-feeding, strict cyclicity, strata, extrinsic/parochial ordering, specificity, elsewhere, blocking, phases, and constraints like Merge over Move. A recurrent theme will be the identification of common patterns in phonology, morphology, and syntax.
- References:**
- Chomsky, Noam (1951): Morphophonemics of Modern Hebrew. Master's thesis, University of Pennsylvania.
  - Kiparsky, Paul (1973a): Abstractness, Opacity and Global Rules. In: O. Fujimura, ed., *Three Dimensions in Linguistic Theory*. TEC, Tokyo, pp. 57-86.
  - Kiparsky, Paul (1973b): 'Elsewhere' in Phonology. In: S. Anderson & P. Kiparsky, eds., *A Festschrift for Morris Halle*. Academic Press, New York, pp. 93-106.
- Starting date:** April 25, 2014

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## IGRA 05

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**Instructor:** Sandhya Sundaresan

**Time:** Friday, 09:15-10:45, SR H1 5.16

**Topic:** Academic Skills for Linguists

**Description:** The goal of this PhD seminar within the IGRA Graduiertenkolleg will be to equip students with the skills required to conduct top-quality research in linguistics within the international arena. To this end, the course will focus on helping students hone their expertise in (at least) the following areas concerned with the writing, publishing, and presentation of linguistic research:

1. LaTeX skills: you will be taught the essential skills needed to conduct all your linguistic writing in the LaTeX programming language.

2. how to write a top-quality linguistic abstract: you will learn how package your theses and arguments in the most interesting and compelling manner within the assigned page limits and other abstract formatting guidelines.

3. how to write a top-quality (i.e. publishable in a top-tier journal) linguistics paper: what do you include, what do you not include, citation procedures, and most important of all, how do you reason from point A to point B in a clear and logically sound manner.

4. how to present a linguistics talk or poster at a conference: core presentation skills.

Course requirements: This course is mandatory for all PhD students within IGRA. Interested MA students may contact the instructor separately. Regular course attendance and participation are expected.

**Starting date:** April 25, 2014

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## IGRA 06

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**Instructor:** Nina Topintzi, Andreas Opitz & Jochen Trommer

**Time:** Tuesday, 13:15-14:45, SR H1 5.16

**Topic:** Topics in Phonology: The Mental Representation of Stress

**Description:** Building on our psycholinguistically oriented seminar in the winter semester, this course addresses the question which aspects of word stress systems speakers internalize as productive rules (i.e., learn), and more in general, which stress rules and rule (or constraint) systems humans can learn or are biased to learn. The methodological focus of the course is the so-called Artificial-Grammar-Learning paradigm where subjects learn artificial toy languages and apply them in experimental tasks, which makes it possible to investigate learning and generalization processes under ideal, controlled conditions. In addition we will also read papers on word stress which treat natural first-language acquisition by children or investigate the productive application of existing stress systems in Wugging experiments (using non-words). On the practical side, students in the course will form small working groups (2-3 students) which will design, conduct, and evaluate their own Artificial-Grammar experiments.

**Starting date:** April 22, 2014

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## IGRA 07

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**Instructor:** Fabian Heck

**Time:** Monday, 17:15-18:45, SR H1 5.16

**Topic:** Topics in Morphology: Universals of Comparative Morphology

**Description:** The course centers around the (new) book by Jonathan Bobaljik on Universals of Comparative Morphology, which we are going to read and discuss. Further potential literature that touches on related issues is going to be addressed as well (e.g., Bernd Wiese's analysis of the German Ablaut).

**References:** - Jonathan Bobaljik (2012): Universals of Comparative Morphology: Suppletion, Superlatives, and the Structure of Words MIT Press.

**Starting date:** April 28, 2014

## IGRA 08

**Instructor:** Martin Salzmann  
**Time:** Tuesday, 11:15-12:45, SR H1 5.16  
**Topic:** Topics in Syntax: Head movement  
**Description:** Head movement has been a prominent topic in linguistic theory for both empirical and theoretical reasons. On the empirical side, there is pervasive evidence that in many instances just a very small piece of structure, arguably corresponding to a syntactic head, is displaced. Theoretically, head movement has been particularly controversial because its properties seem to differ from other displacement operations: in its traditional head-adjunction implementation it violates the extension condition; it is subject to more stringent locality restrictions than phrasal movement; furthermore, it does not seem to have any semantic effects. This has led to a plethora of alternative proposals some of which deny the existence of head-movement in the narrow sense. In this seminar we will try to cover a wide range of phenomena where verb movement has been argued to be involved, e.g. inversion constructions, verb second, incorporation, the construct state construction, V-to-T-movement, VSO-languages, verb clusters, long head movement, verb doubling, clitic movement etc. On the theoretical side, we will discuss the technical challenges arising in the context of head movement (violation of the extension condition, extreme locality, excorporation, phase extension, cf. den Dikken 2007, lack/presence of semantic effects, cf. Lechner 2007) and go through the various implementations that have been proposed over the years, including the traditional head-adjunction analysis (Baker 1988), reprojection (Georgi & Müller 2010), head-to-Spec movement and morphological merger (Matushansky 2006), long head-to-spec-movement (Vicente 2007), remnant movement approaches (e.g. Müller 2004), spec-to-head-movement (Bayer & Brandner 2008), interarboreal operations (Bobaljik 1997), PF-movement approaches (Chomsky 2000), Head movement as Agree (Roberts 2010), Lowering and Local Dislocation (Embick & Noyer 2001).

### Preparatory reading

**(optional):**

- Roberts, Ian. 2001. Head movement. In Mark Baltin & Chris Collins (eds.), *The handbook of contemporary syntactic theory*. Blackwell: Oxford, 113-147.
- Roberts, Ian. 2011. Head Movement and the Minimalist Program. In Cédric Boeckx (ed.): *The Oxford handbook of linguistic minimalism*. Oxford, OUP, 195-219.

**Starting date:** April 22, 2014

**Instructor:** Gereon Müller  
**Time:** Tuesday, 17:15-18:45, NSG, S 102  
**Topic:** Topics in Syntax: Passive  
**Description:** In this seminar, we will be concerned with the syntactic properties and the morphological realization of the grammatical category 'passive'. We will look at different theoretical approaches that have been suggested over the years, and we will consider data from a variety of typologically distinct languages. Important theoretical questions that will be addressed include the distinction between inflection and word formation and the modelling of the morphology/syntax interface.

**References:** - Will be provided at the start of the seminar.

**Starting date:** April 29, 2014

**Instructor:** Martin Haspelmath  
**Time:** May 14 and 15, 2014: compact course, two full days (exact times to be announced), MPI EVA  
**Topic:** Topics in Syntax: Toward a causal theory of grammatical coding asymmetries  
**Description:** After some preliminary discussion of types of theoretical approaches (causal theories vs. restrictive theories, and the role of analysis and explanation in these), this course will examine a range of cross-linguistically systematic grammatical asymmetries, i.e. cases where one opposition member is encoded more strongly than another one. I will argue that all these morphosyntactic generalizations have their roots in frequency differences between the opposing construction types. Unlike the obvious frequency effects in syntactic processing, frequency effects in syntactic structure cannot be studied directly. They require a complex approach involving psycholinguistic foundations, typological observations and diachronic implementation, and it is perhaps due to this complexity that the literature on syntactic universals has often ignored frequency as an explanatory factor. I will argue, however, that a large number of well-established (morpho-)syntactic universals find their explanation in usage frequency. In the course, phenomena such as differential object marking, split ergativity, causal-noncausal alternations, possessive alienability

splits, reflexivization, infinitival constructions will be examined from a typological and diachronic perspective. I will also relate these phenomena and their explanation to optimality-theoretic approaches.

**References:** - Haspelmath, Martin. 2008. Creating economical morphosyntactic patterns in language change. In Jeff Good (ed.), *Language universals and language change*, 185-214. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

**Starting date:** May 14, 2014

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## IGRA 09

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**Instructor:** Andrew Nevins

**Time:** compact course, July 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, and 25, 2014 (tentative), SR H1 5.16

**Topic:** Visiting Professorship Course: Postsyntactic Morphology

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## IGRA Colloquium

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**Instructors:** Gereon Müller & IGRA-faculty

**Time:** Wednesday, 17:15-18:45, SR H1 5.16

**Description:** A series of guest lectures by scholars working on aspects of the interaction of grammatical building blocks. These talks are primarily for the graduate students of IGRA, but they are open to all.

**Starting date:** April 23, 2014

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## Further courses of interest

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**Topic:** Phonology reading group

**Instructor:** Nina Topintzi, Jochen Trommer & Eva Zimmermann

**Topic:** Colloquium theory of grammar

**Instructor:** Gereon Müller

**Time:** Friday, 14:00-15:30, SR H1 5.16

**Starting date:** April 25, 2014

**Topic:** Reading Group *Diversity Linguistics Seminar*

**Instructor:** MPI staff

**Time:** Friday, 9.30, MPI-EVA, every 2–3 weeks