

Graduate school IGRA

Summer Term 2021

Courses open to all interested

Form of the courses – digital format

IGRA 01

- Instructors:** Gregory M. Kobele, Michael Frazier, Paula Fenger & Sam Zukoff
Time: Friday, 15:30–17:00
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.
Reading: will be announced at the beginning of the semester
Starting date: April 16, 2021

IGRA 03

- Topic:** Key Skills I: Mathematical Methods, Semantics: Grammatical perspectives on language use
Instructor: Gregory M. Kobele
Time: Friday, 9:15–10:45
Description: Investigating our linguistic competence is possible only via its interaction with our performance; all data pertinent to competence is an abstraction of our use of language. This holds as well of (dis)confirming our theories of competence! Thus the question of how our competence manifests itself in performance is not merely of interest to psycholinguists, but in fact weighs heavily on us all. In this course, we investigate the question of how minimalist grammars can be used in sentence processing. While we will focus on understanding the 'hows' of syntactic processing, I will make effort to draw connections both into the syntactic, as well as into the empirical literature.
Starting date: April 16, 2021

IGRA 06

- Topic:** Topics in Phonology: Exceptional segments
Instructor: Eva Zimmermann
Time: Thursday, 9:15–10:45
Description: This seminar will investigate phonological exceptionality on the segmental level. It is hence concerned with segments whose behavior is unexpected given the phonology of a language. Empirically, we will focus on exceptions to mutation patterns (e.g. exceptional triggers and undergoers for Celtic consonant mutation (Green, 2006)) and vowel harmony (e.g. exceptional undergoers of harmony in Yucatec Mayan (Krämer, 2001)). The course will compare different theories that account for exceptional segments and compare their empirical adequacy. One leading question will be whether exceptionality is a property of morphemes or of single segments.
Starting date: April 15, 2021
- Topic:** Topics in Phonology: Morpho-phonological subcategorization
Instructor: Nicholas Rolle (Berlin)
Time: Thursday, 17:15–18:45
Description: Subcategorization is a formalism used across theories to capture idiosyncratic properties of specific morphemes, e.g. for suppletive allomorphy, prosodic constituency, second position clitics,

infixation, morphotactics, tone alignment, i.a. This course will explore the central development of this formalism, its multiple instantiations, and the phenomena it is used to capture. We will also explore alternative accounts which derive such idiosyncratic effects through other means

Starting date: April 15, 2021

IGRA 07

Topic: Topics in Morphology: Morphological Theory and the Algonquian Verb

Instructor: Gereon Müller

Time: Monday, 11:15–12:45 and
Tuesday, 17:15–18:45

Description: At least since Leonard Bloomfield's *Menomini Morphophonemics* from 1939, the study of the Algonquian verb has figured prominently in grammatical theory. In this research-oriented seminar, we will look at relevant morphological phenomena from languages like Potawatomi, Passamaquoddy, Ojibwe, Cree, and Menomini. We will review a number of different approaches, based on different morphological theories. In addition, I hope that we can also try to determine the prospects of an approach to the Algonquian verb in terms of a new theory of inflectional morphology based on Harmonic Serialism.

Reading: Will be announced at the beginning of the semester.

Starting date: June 7, 2021

Note: The class will meet twice per week, but only in the second part of the semester.

Topic: Topics in Morphology: Morpheme orders and morphological templates

Instructor: Barbara Stiebels

Time: Wednesday, 13:15–14:45

Description: Morpheme orders often result from a complex interplay of semantic, syntactic, prosodic and morphological constraints. We will discuss the various approaches to morpheme orders and evaluate to what extent templatic approaches, which stipulate morpheme orders via arbitrary position classes, are justified. We will especially look at morpheme orders in the nominal and verbal domain: the order of derivational morphemes and number/case/ definiteness/possessor agreement in nouns, the order of pronominal affixes, tense/aspect/modality/mood, diathesis markers and lexical affixes (e.g. adverbial affixes) in the verb. We will not only focus on concatenative morphology but also discuss the role of morpheme order in non-concatenative morphology, in portmanteau morphemes and in suppletion.

Literature (starting point):

- Manova, Stela & Mark Aronoff. Modelling affix order. *Morphology* 20. 109–131.

Starting date: April 14, 2021

IGRA 08

Topic: Topics in Syntax: Topics in the syntax of argument structure

Instructor: Maria Kouneli

Time: Tuesday, 13:15–14:45

Description: This is an advanced seminar on syntactic aspects of argument structure. We will read and discuss work that deals with questions like the following: How are arguments introduced and licensed in the clause? What is the relationship between the syntax of argument structure and its morphological reflexes (e.g., applicative morphemes on verbs or case morphology on nouns)? How do valency-changing operations interact with other syntactic operations, such as agreement and movement? The empirical phenomena that we will look at include valency-increasing (e.g., applicatives, causatives) and valency-decreasing operations (e.g., passives, reflexives), and data will be drawn from a variety of language families. These specific topics also relate to larger syntactic questions (e.g., nature of thematic roles, syntax-morphology interface, selection and licensing of nominals).

Readings:

- Alexiadou, Artemis, Elena Anagnostopoulou & Florian Schäfer. 2015. *External Arguments in Transitivity Alternations: A Layering Approach*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Harley, Heidi. 2011. A Minimalist approach to argument structure. In *The Oxford Handbook of Linguistic Minimalism*, ed. Cedric Boeckx. Oxford University Press.
- Legate, Julie Anne. 2014. *Voice and v: Lessons from Acehnese*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

- Pylkkanen, Liina. 2008. Introducing arguments. Linguistic Inquiry Monographs. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.

Starting date: April 13, 2021

IGRA Colloquium

Instructors: Gereon Müller & IGRA-faculty

Time: Wednesday, 15:15–16:45

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: May 19, 2021

Further courses of interest

Topic: Phonology reading group

Instructor: Jochen Trommer & Eva Zimmermann

Time: Monday, 17:15–18:45

Description: We meet every week to discuss recent and/or important work in phonology. Most of the time we agree on a paper that we all read and then discuss, but we also include talks/discussions about our own work in progress.

Starting date: April 12, 2021

Topic: Formal Reading Group

Instructor: Gregory M. Kobele

Time: Wednesday, 9:15–10:45

Description: The particular topics to be covered will be negotiated on the first day of class.

Starting date: April 14, 2021

Topic: Colloquium Linguistic Typology

Instructor: Barbara Stiebels

Time: Thursday, 11:15–12:45

Description: The colloquium provides a forum to present and discuss ongoing research in linguistic typology. Presentations and suggestions for readings are welcome. In this semester we will focus on recent, but also on classical studies on the typology of morphology.

Starting date: April 15, 2021

Topic: Recent Work in Morphology and Syntax

Instructor: Gereon Müller

Time: Friday, 14:00–15:30

Description: In this colloquium, we discuss recent work in morphology and syntax that either goes back to the participants's own research or has recently been published.

Starting date: April 16, 2021