Graduate school IGRA
Winter Term 2014/15

Courses open to all interested

IGRA 02

Instructor: Fabian Heck, Petr Staroverov & Barbara Stiebels
Time: Tuesday, 13:15-14:45, SR H1 5.16
Topic: Interacting Building Blocks in Phonology, Morphology, and Syntax II: Excitatory and Inhibitory Simultaneous Interactions
Description: This course deals with the phenomena of simultaneous inhibitory (i.e.,conflict and blocking) and excitatory interaction of building blocks (i.e., cooperation) and their theoretical modelling. A special focus will lie on the implementation of Optimality Theory (OT) in Phonology, Morphology and Syntax. We will discuss extensions and modifications of OT and also look at alternative declarative models (e.g., Construction Morphology). We will also briefly deal with the role of external factors such as frequency, economy and iconicity.
References: - Prince, Alan & Paul Smolensky. 1993. *Optimality Theory: Constraint Interaction in Generative Grammar.* Rutgers University Center for Cognitive Science Technical Report *2*.
- Kager, René. 1999. Optimality theory. Cambridge: Cambridge Univ. Press.
Starting date: October 14, 2014

IGRA 04

Instructor: Peter Staroverov
Time: Friday, 09:15-10:45, SR H1 5.16
Topic: Key Skills II: Experimental Methods, Databases
Description: This course will provide an overview of techniques for linguistic experiments and linguistic data organization. The goal of the course is to provide the necessary expertise for the students to be able to interpret recent top-tier experimental and quantitative papers as well as to add a quantitative component to their own research. Topics to be covered will include:

- experimental design and statistical data analysis
- specific kinds of linguistic experiments (e.g. judgement elicitation, acoustic data analysis, perceptual experiments, nonce-word experiments, artificial grammar experiments)
- techniques in field linguistics
- database design and management

A key requirement for the course will be to design and conduct your own experimental/quantitative mini-study, involving a technique that is new for you.
Starting date: October 16, 2014

IGRA 06

Instructor: Jochen Trommer
Time: Thursday, 09:15-10:45, SR H1 5.16
Topic: Topics in Phonology: The Segmental Phonology of Ethiopian Semitic Languages
Description: The Ethiopian Semitic languages (i.a. Amharic, Tigrinya, Chaha und Gurage) are close relatives of better known Semitic languages such as Arabic and Hebrew, show similar grammatical systems, but also marked differences in detail. In this course we examine 4 central and closely connected phenomena in Ethiopian-Semitic languages, where segmental phonology interacts in especially striking ways with morphological exponence (the phonotactically conditioned distribution of vowels, Root-and-Pattern-Morphology, mobile affixation, consonant mutation/gemination) and discuss these data on the background of recent theoretical phonology approaches to templatic morphology, long-distance assimilation, epenthesis, and consonantal length.
References: - Rose, Sharon (1997) *Theoretical Issues in Comparative Ethio-Semitic Phonology and*

Morphology. PhD thesis, McGill University.
- Rose, Sharon & Rachel Walker (2004). A Typology of Consonant Agreement as Correspondence. *Language* 80: 475-531.
- Staroverov, Peter (2014) *Splitting and the Typology of Consonant Epenthesis.* PhD thesis Rutgers University.
- Zimmermann, Eva & Jochen Trommer (2014) Generalized Mora Affixation and Quantity-Manipulating Morphology. *Phonology* 31.3.

Starting date: October 16, 2014

IGRA 07

Instructor:	Barbara Stiebels
Time:	Wednesday, 15:15-16:45, SR H1 5.16
Topic:	Topics in Morphology: Theories of word formation
Description:	The seminar will deal with various theoretical approaches to category-shifting and category-preserving word formation phenomena (including nominalization, denominal/deadjectival verbs, *-bar/-able* adjectives, *re*-prefixation and analogous formations in other languages, diminutives, complex verbs, compounding) and the productivity of word formation processes. We will consider lexical as well as word-syntactic approaches and declarative vs. derivational vs. usage-based approaches.

References:
- Booij, Geert E. 2010. *Construction Morphology*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Hoeksema, Jack. 1984. *Categorial morphology*. PhD thesis, University of Groningen.
- Lieber, Rochelle. 1992. *Deconstructing Morphology: Word formation in syntactic theory.* Chicago: University of Chicago Press.
- Lieber, Rochelle. 2005. *Morphology and lexical semantics*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- Lieber, Rochelle & Pavol Štekauer (ed.). 2009. *The Oxford handbook of compounding*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.
- Selkirk, Elisabeth O. 1982. *The syntax of words*. Cambridge, MA: MIT Press.
- Štekauer, Pavol (ed.). 2005. *Handbook of word-formation*. Dordrecht: Springer.

Starting date: October 15, 2014

IGRA 08

Instructor:	Sandhya Sundaresan
Time:	Thursday, 15:15-16:45, SR H1 5.16
Topic:	Topics in Syntax: Control
Description:	This course will study the fundamental properties of control, where the reference of a typically unpronounced subject (an empty category/EC) in a typically non-finite clause is dependent on that of another nominal phrase in the sentence (E.g. "Angela_i tried [EC_i to smile]"). One of the reasons this phenomenon is so interesting is that its properties vary significantly across languages; another is that the identity of the unpronounced subject and the conditions under which it is licensed are hotly debated in the literature and still unresolved. In the course, we will investigate all attested types of control: subject vs. object, exhaustive vs. partial vs. split, and obligatory vs. non-obligatory.

Formally, we will consider and compare a series of theoretical approaches to control within the generative paradigm, focussing on questions like the following:

– what is the nature of the silent subject that is controlled? Is it present in the syntactic representation (i.e. is there even a subject)? If it is present, what is its syntactic status and what sorts of features does it have?

– why is the controlled subject typically silent? And what's going on in the cases where we seem to have control of an overt subject (e.g. Hungarian, European Portuguese, and Tamil)

– what role, if any, does the Case/case of the controlled subject play in determining ist properties?

– what is the nature of the relationship between the controller and controllee? Is the relationship syntactic or semantic? Can it be reduced to some more general relationship (e.g. A-movement or anaphora?) or is it something special?

– how do we formally derive the differences between the various attested types of control? And how is this related to the syntactic and semantic properties of the lexical predicates that embed control structures?

– what is the role of the finiteness of the controlled clause? I.e. why is this clause typically non-finite and what is going on in instances where we seem to have control into finite clauses (e.g. in Hebrew)?

Course Requirements: There will be weekly readings, individual presentations, and a final research paper at the end. In addition to doing these, students are expected to attend the seminars regularly, and participate actively in the discussions.

Starting date: October 16, 2014

Instructor:	Gereon Müller
Time:	Friday, 11:15-12.45, SR H1 5.16
Topic:	Topics in Syntax: Reanalysis
Description:	This is a research-oriented seminar. The goal is to look at a variety of constructions from different empirical domains for which it has often been argued that some form of syntactic reanalysis should be postulated, and to investigate to what extent these approaches can be given a principled implementation from a minimalist perspective. Phenomena that will figure prominently in the discussion include (a) grammatical-function changing (dative shift, passive, applicative, anti-passive, causative, etc.); (b) displacement (was-fuer-split, bridge verbs, extraction from DP, etc.); and (c) the syntax of infinitives (restructuring).
References:	- Will be provided at the start of the seminar.
Starting date:	October 17, 2014

Instructor:	Martin Salzmann, Doreen Georgi
Time:	Tuesday, 11:15-12:45, SR H1 5.16
Topic:	Topics in Syntax: Long A'-movement from a local perspective
Description:	In this seminar we will look at the technical aspects of long A'-movement with a particular focus on evidence for local modeling of such non-local dependencies. We intend to address the following issues:

– Size of the cycle (phases): only vP (Richards & Rackowski 2005), not TP (Abels 2012), every XP (Chomsky 1973 etc.), antilocality (Grohmann 2003), Williams-Cycle (Williams 1974 etc.)

– the nature of the trigger for the local movement steps: edge-feature (Chomsky 2001), greed (Boskovic 2007), phase balance (Heck & Müller 2007), repel (Stroik 2009)

– the nature of „copying": copy theory (Chomsky 1995), trace-theory (Fiengo 1974), nothing-theory (Epstein & Seely 2002), multi-dominance (Gärtner 2002, Abels 2012), successive external Merge (Branigan 2011)

– reflexes of successive-cyclic movement: phonological, morphological (e.g. Irish, McCloskey 2002), syntactic (obligatory extraposition, inversion), semantic (reconstruction, e.g. Fox 1999, Sauerland 2003)

– alternatives to long-distance movement: Scope-marking (den Dikken 2009), prolepsis (Boskovic 2007), Tree Adjoining Grammar (Franks 2002)

Starting date: 14.10.2014

Instructor:	Martin Haspelmath & Doris Schönefeld
Time:	Tuesday, 17:15-18:45, SR H1 5.16
Topic:	Topics in Syntax: Usage-based and constructionist approaches
Description:	The course will focus on usage-based approaches to describing and explaining (above all) the syntagmatic level of linguistic organisation. It is intended as a reading course. This means that – after an introduction to the main tenets associated with usage-based linguistics - publications relevant to the topic will be discussed. We will inquire into details of their messages, seek for clarification of debatable issues, see how the data we are familiar with fit into the discussion and will analyse the texts wrt what they contribute to our understanding of language.
	The course will start with reading texts selected by the instructors, but participants will also be involved in shaping the course in that they are asked to bring in texts they think to be relevant to themselves.
	Texts set for reading will be announced and made available in time for the beginning term.
Starting date:	October 14, 2014

IGRA Colloquium

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: November 19, 2014

Further courses of interest

Topic: Phonology reading group
Instructor: Jochen Trommer & Eva Zimmermann

Topic: Colloquium theory of grammar
Instructor: Gereon Müller
Time: Friday, 14.00-16.00, SR H1 5.16
Starting date: October 17, 2014

Topic: Reading Group Diversity Linguistics Seminar
Instructor: MPI staff
Time: Friday, 9:30, MPI-EVA, every 2–3 weeks.