

Graduate school IGRA

Winter Term 2015/16

Courses open to all interested

IGRA 02

- Instructor:** Gereon Müller, Fabian Heck & Jochen Trommer
Time: Friday, 11:15-12:45, 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 16, 2015

IGRA 03 – 2 compact courses

Compact course A:

- Instructor:** Jens Michaelis (Bielefeld)
Time: November 16, 10:00-12:00, 13:00-15:00
November 17, 09:15-11:00
November 23, 10:00-12:00, 13:00-15:00
November 24, 09:15-11:00
SR H1 5.16
Topic: Key Skills I: Mathematical Methods, Semantics: Remarks on strings, trees and derivations
Description: The course aims at clarifying central mathematical notions of formal language theory, and at showing how these notions can be usefully employed in order to provide a rigorous algebraic formalization (of some) of the perspectives adopted in generative grammar.

Compact course B:

- Instructor:** Greg Kobele (Chicago)
Time: December 7, 09:00-12:00
December 8, 15:00-17:00
December 10, 15:00-17:00
December 11, 16:00-18:00
December 14, 09:00-12:00
SR H1 5.16
Topic: Key Skills I: Mathematical Methods, Semantics

IGRA 06

Instructor: Eva Zimmermann
Time: Tuesday, 13:15-14:45, SR H1 5.16
Topic: Topics in Phonology: Tonal Morphology in American Languages
Description: It is paradoxical from a theoretical perspective that “the Americas have the least studied tonal phonology” (Yip 2002, 212) although many languages (especially in Central America) are well-described and offer a rich array of fascinating tonal phenomena. This course hence focusses on tone in languages/language families from Central, Southern, and Northern America and discusses different tonal phenomena especially in the morphology but also phonology of these languages and their theoretical account. Some examples of phenomena we will focus on include: tone as a morphological exponent (and its allomorphs) in languages of Mesoamerica (Otomanguean, Zapotec); (non-local) tone demanding affixes in Witotoan; the interaction of tone and stress in Otomanguean languages; or the classification as tone or pitch accent in Algonquian languages.
Starting date: October 27, 2015

Instructor: Jochen Trommer
Time: Thursday, 17:15-18:45, SR H1 5.16
Topic: Topics in Phonology: Tonal Morphology in West African Languages
Description: In many West African languages (e.g. Akan, Hausa, and Margi) morphological categories are either partially or completely expressed by tone. The goal of this course is a better understanding of this phenomenon, but also to use it as a magnifying lense to central phenomena of tonal phonology such as OCP- (dissimilation-) effects, opacity, downstep, or tonal underspecification, and to the morphosyntactic structure of these languages.
Starting date: October 15, 2015

IGRA 07

Instructor: Martina Martinović
Time: Monday, 15:15-16:45, SR H1 5.16
Topic: Topics in Morphology: The morphosyntax of long-distance dependencies
Description: This course investigates long-distance dependencies, focusing on the cross-linguistic morphosyntactic reflexes of A'-movement. We will explore a wide range of phenomena (e.g. subject/non-subject asymmetries, complementizer agreement, anti-agreement effects, resumption, etc.) in a variety of A'-movement constructions (questions, relative clauses, exhaustive focus constructions), drawing on data from typologically diverse languages. The goal of the course is to compile a rich typology of A'-extraction phenomena and critically compare different analyses of similar effects in order to arrive at higher-level generalizations about properties of A'-movement and various morphological and syntactic processes that accompany it.
Starting date: October 12, 2015

IGRA 08

Instructor: Martin Haspelmath & Doris Schönefeld
Time: Tuesday, 17:15-18:45, SR H5 3.16
Topic: Topics in Syntax: Usage-based approaches to lexicon and syntax
Description: The course is offered as a reading course focused on usage-based approaches to linguistic phenomena associated with the domains/fields of 'lexicon' and 'syntax'. 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 with respect to 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.

The texts set for reading will be announced and made available in due time before the start of the winter term.

Starting date: October 20, 2015

Instructor: Sandhya Sundaresan

Time: Thursday, 11:15-12:45, SR H1 5.16

Topic: Topics in Syntax: Non-locality in clausal structure: extended projections

Description: An extended projection (Grimshaw 2000, among others) is a chunk of structure that consists of a sequence of functional categories projected above a lexical category. E.g. the extended projection of an N would be the DP or perhaps the PP, and the extended projection of the V would be the CP, involving functional projections like I and C, and potentially others. Extended projections are a way to deal with patterns that are nearly local, but involve a certain inherent kind of non-locality, and thus cannot straightforwardly be modeled in terms of selection. For example there is a rigid sequence of possible auxiliary verbs in English: modal above perfect 'have' above progressive 'be' above passive 'be'. We might try to capture this by saying that the modal selects the perfect, which selects the progressive, which selects the passive, which selects the main verb. But this won't work, because any one of these auxiliaries can be omitted without disturbing the rest of the sequence. Unless we want to say that e.g. even non-perfect clauses involve a perfect head, we need a mechanism which can state the ordering of these heads, but which is not directly stated on the heads themselves. What is the basic spine of a clause or a nominal phrase, what parts are obligatory, and what order do they come in? This is the sort of thing that devices like extended projections, Adger's Hierarchy of Projections (Adger 2003 et seq.), or the functional sequence/"fseq" (Starke 2011) of Nanosyntax have been proposed for. Some of the questions we will look at are:

- what are the structural wellformedness conditions on an extended projection? (how big can they be, how small can they be, where can there be "gaps" in the sequence, and how do we decide)?
- relatedly, what are the different formal ways to implement this basic idea: e.g. Grimshaw's original extended projection, Adger's Hierarchy of projections, a cartographic functional sequence/"fseq"? – and how do we empirically decide amongst them?
- what is the connection between an extended projection and a phase? (e.g. a CP is considered to constitute a single extended projection but consists of two phases – vP and CP).
- how much crosslinguistic uniformity/variation do we see in the structure and inventory of extended projections?

Starting date: October 22, 2015

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: October 7, 2015

Further courses of interest

Topic: Phonology reading group

Instructor: Jochen Trommer & Eva Zimmermann
Time: Monday, 17:15-18:45, SR H1 5.16

Topic: Colloquium theory of grammar
Instructor: Gereon Müller
Time: Friday, 14:00 – 16:00, SR H1 5.16
Starting date: October 16, 2015