

Graduate school IGRA

Winter Term 2020/21

Courses open to all interested

Form of the courses – digital format

IGRA 02

- Topic:** Interacting Building Blocks in Phonology, Morphology, and Syntax II: Excitatory and Inhibitory Simultaneous Interactions
- Instructor:** Gereon Müller, Imke Driemel & Sam Zukoff
- Time:** Friday, 11:15-12:45
- 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 30, 2020

IGRA 03

- Topic:** Key Skills I: Mathematical Methods, Semantics: Direct compositionality
- Instructor:** Gregory M. Kobele
- Time:** Wednesday, 9:15-10:45
- Description:** Do we need to construct a syntactic structure (LF) to interpret, or can we interpret the derivation itself? This architectural question is a fundamental disagreement in the theory of the syntax-semantics interface, and continues to spawn a robust literature from both sides of the argument. In practice, this has revolved around whether or not to use minimalism or something else (usually categorial grammar) as our syntax, because minimalism seems committed to indirect interpretation. This is, however, not the case. In this class we will see how to do LF-interpretation (à la Heim and Kratzer, Fox, or Johnson) without LF. Along the way, we will acquaint ourselves with the relevant literature, and on the concept of compositionality. The goal of this course is to gain the ability to develop robust compositional semantic analyses in the context of minimalist syntax. Topics to be covered include ACD, pronoun binding (from non-c-commanding positions), and QR.
- Starting date:** October 28, 2020

IGRA 06

- Topic:** Topics in Phonology: Phonology
- Instructor:** Jochen Trommer
- Time:** Thursday, 17:15-18:45
- Description:** The minor goal of this course is to become familiar with the most important theoretical tools to approach the phonology of Natural languages: Distinctive Features, autosegmental and prosodic representations, ordered rules, the cycle, and violable constraints. Its major goal is to learn applying all these tools rigorously and creatively to real data from natural languages.
- References:**
- Kenstowicz, M. (1994) *Phonology in Generative Grammar*. Cambridge MA: Blackwell.
 - Kager, R. (1999) *Optimality Theory*. Cambridge University Press.
- Starting date:** October 29, 2020

IGRA 07

Topic: Topics in Morphology: Morphology

Instructor: Maria Kouneli

Time: Tuesday, 13:15-14:45

Description: This seminar serves as an introduction to morphology at an advanced level. We will discuss the most important terms, concepts, and topics that morphology deals with, and we will study the different theoretical frameworks that have been proposed to account for the puzzles in the field. We will also discuss how morphology connects to other modules of the grammar, by investigating the syntax-morphology and the phonology-morphology interface. Finally, we will read recent published work to understand how trends in morphology connect to current research questions.

Starting date: October 27, 2020

IGRA 08

Topic: Topics in Syntax: Head Movement and Word Building

Instructor: Paula Fenger

Time: Monday, 15:15-16:45 and
Thursday, 13:15-14:45

Description: This seminar explores longstanding theoretical and empirical issues related to head movement and word building. The focus is in particular on the verbal domain, as this domain has rich variation in whether tense, mood, aspect and valency changing morphology is expressed in single or multi-word constructions. Specific issues we will focus on are: how to test if movement takes place (specifically in head-final languages), the location of head movement (syntax, post-syntax), the relation between different modules of grammar pertaining to word building (morphology pre- or post-syntax), the relation between head movement and word building, and the relation between head movement and other types of (syntactic) movement. Readings will be announced at the beginning of the class.

Starting date: November 30, 2020

Topic: Topics in Syntax: Current Concepts in Syntactic Theory

Instructor: Gereon Müller,

Time: Tuesday, 17:15-18:45

Description: This seminar will look at some important concepts currently under discussion in minimalist syntax, which may also form potential backgrounds of qualifying papers and dissertations. We will be concerned with concepts like labelling, multidominance, antilocality, feature inheritance, feature sharing, strength, and possibly others.

Reading: will be announced at the beginning of the semester

Starting date: October 27, 2020

Topic: Topics in Syntax: Perspectives of a feature-based derivational syntax

Instructor: Fabian Heck

Time: Thursday, 11:15-12:45

Description: The purpose of this course is twofold. First, it is supposed to make students who just entered the MA-program in linguistics in Leipzig (and who did not take the introductory syntax course in module 04-006-1003) familiar with the most fundamental properties of the derivational syntactic theory usually referred to as the "Minimalist Program" (MP; mostly based on Chomsky 1995, 2000, 2001). Second, it aims at addressing further topics within this theory that are not covered by the introductory course. Such topics may (but need not) include binding (Principle A, B, C), cyclicity (the cycle, strict cyclicity, tucking-in), locality (MLC, PIC, Freezing, Leap Frogging), Agree (upward, downward, cyclic, gluttonic, multiple), copies (reconstruction, linearization), case (alignment systems, dependent case), labeling. The concrete syllabus can be adopted to the students' needs.

Starting date: October 29, 2020

IGRA Colloquium

Instructors: Gereon Müller & IGRA-faculty

Time: Wednesday, 17:15-18:45

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: October 2020

Further courses of interest

Topic: Readings in Semantics

Instructor: Gregory M. Koble

Time: Monday, 9:15-10:45

Description: In this colloquium we will read and discuss papers relevant to the module.

Starting date: October 26, 2020

Topic: Phonology reading group

Instructor: Jochen Trommer

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: October 26, 2020

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' own research or has recently been published.

Starting date: October 30, 2020