

Graduate school IGRA

Winter Term 2021/22

Courses open to all interested

IGRA 01, CYCLOP

- Topic:** Sequential Interaction of Grammatical Building Blocks: Cyclic Optimization
- Instructor:** Michael Frazier, Gereon Müller & NN
- Time:** Tuesday, 11:15-12:45, HSG, HS 20
- Description:** This seminar is a comprehensive introduction to cyclic optimization in grammar, from the perspective of phonology, morphology, and syntax. First, we will be concerned with different concepts of cyclicity, focussing on Chomsky's original transformational cycle from the 60's and its current successors, and on Kiparsky's subsequent interface-based concept of cyclicity. Here, notions like Cyclic Principle, successive cyclicity, strict cyclicity, and bracket erasure will also play a role. Second, we look at different concepts of optimization (broadly conceived of as the principled choice among competing linguistic expressions in phonology, morphology, and syntax), from Elsewhere-/Subset Principle-based competition resolution in phonology and morphology via transderivational constraints in syntax to selection of optimal candidates in optimality theory. And third, we will become acquainted with cyclic optimization approaches that combine the two concepts, and that, taken together, arguably constitute some of the most important current theories of grammar: stratal optimality theory, phase-based minimalist syntax, and harmonic serialism.
- The seminar is aimed at both advanced bachelor students (where it simultaneously covers *Theorie und Praxis sprachlicher Forschung 1+2*) and beginning graduate students.
- Starting date:** October 12, 2021

IGRA 05, CYCLOP

- Topic:** Akademic Skills for Linguists
- Instructor:** Marie-Luise Popp & Irene Amato
- Time:** Thursday, 13:15-14:45, NSG, S 211
- Description:** The goal of this course is to equip students with the skills required to conduct and present research in linguistics within the international area. To this end, the course will focus on helping students hone their expertise in (at least) the following areas concerning the preparation, writing, presentation and publication of linguistic research:
1. LaTeX: students will be taught the essential skills needed to conduct all the academic writing in linguistics in the LaTeX programming language.
 2. Literature: students will be taught how to read, manage and integrate existing linguistic literature
 3. Dealing with data: Students will be equipped with important skills about how to handle and argue with linguistic data.
 4. Writing abstracts: students will learn how to package their theses and arguments in the most interesting and compelling manner within the assigned style limitations in order to produce top-quality abstracts.
 5. Publishing papers: students will be taught how to publish research articles in top-tier journals. Thus, students will learn common citation procedures and how to provide linguistics arguments in a logically sound manner.
 6. Presentations: Students will be advised how to give an oral or a poster presentation in a course or at a linguistic conference.
- Starting date:** October 14, 2021

IGRA 06

- Topic:** Topics in Phonology: Phonology
- Instructor:** Eva Zimmermann

Time: Thursday, 9:15-10:45, NSG, S 111
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 14, 2021

IGRA 07

Topic: Topics in Morphology: Morphology
Instructor: Yuriy Kushnir & Mariia Privizentseva
Time: Wednesday, 13:15-14:45, HSG, HS15
Description: This class is an introduction to morphology at an advanced level. We will present empirical questions that morphological theory intends to solve and theoretical concepts employed for this. We will also read recent published work and discuss current research problems. The ultimate goal of the course is to learn how to recognize and analyze theoretically relevant morphological phenomena.
Starting date: October 13, 2021

IGRA 08

Topic: Topics in Syntax: Constraints on Movement
Instructor: Gereon Müller
Time: Tuesday, 17:15-18:45, NSG, S 127
Description: In this seminar we will be concerned with constraints on syntactic movement, from Chomsky's legendary A-over-A Principle from 1964 to recent concepts of phase impenetrability and anti-locality. We will look at empirical evidence from a variety of typologically different languages; and we will also consider approaches based on a variety of different theories of grammar (Minimalist Program, GPSG, HPSG, Optimality Theory, Gradient Harmonic Grammar).
References: Will be announced at the beginning of the semester.
For preparation, participants may want to look at this overview paper:
- Müller, Gereon. 2021. Constraints on Grammatical Dependencies. In Nicholas Allot, Terje Lohndal & Georges Rey (eds.), *A Companion to Chomsky*, 190-209. Hoboken, NJ: Wiley Blackwell. (<https://home.uni-leipzig.de/mueller/mu992.pdf>)
Starting date: October 12, 2021

Topic: Topics in Syntax: Syntax
Instructor: Fabian Heck
Time: Thursday, 11:15-12:45, NSG, S 111
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 14, 2021

Topic: Topics in Syntax: Syntax and Scope
Instructor: Gregory M. Kobele
Time: Friday, 11:15-12:45, NSG, S 111

Description: The structure of a sentence bears some relation to its meaning, but which exactly? In this course we focus on surveying the empirical landscape of scope taking. Different theoretical proposals will be evaluated with respect to their predictions, and we will attempt a synthesis.

Starting date: October 15, 2021

IGRA Colloquium

Instructors: Gereon Müller & IGRA-faculty
Time: Wednesday, 15:15-16:45 - online
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 2021

Further courses of interest

Topic: Phonology reading group
Instructor: Eva Zimmermann
Time: Monday, 10:00-11:30, Beethovenstr. 15, H1 5.16
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 11, 2021

Topic: Colloquium Linguistic Typology
Instructor: Barbara Stiebels
Time: Tuesday, 15:15-16:45, NSG, S 111
Description: The colloquium provides a forum to present and discuss ongoing research in linguistic typology. Presentations and suggestions for readings are welcome. The program will be fixed in the first meeting.
Starting date: October 12, 2021

Topic: Readings in linguistics
Instructor: Gregory M. Kobele
Time: Wednesday, 9:15-10:45, NSG, S 111
Description: We will read and discuss topics in and around linguistics. Topics TBD in the first week of class.
Starting date: October 13, 2021

Topic: Recent Work in Morphology and Syntax
Instructor: Gereon Müller
Time: Friday, 14:00-15:30, HSG, HS 1
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: October 15, 2021