

PINA-Kolloquium am 1. November 2017

Wanting to be understood - Communicative intentions in young children

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In adults, communication is a manipulation of others' mental states which rests on a basic assumption of partner cooperativeness. However, it is unknown whether young children also appreciate the mental and cooperative nature of communication or whether they act on a purely instrumental basis and merely use others as tools to achieve material ends.

The present thesis adopts a functional perspective on the development of communicative intentions in young children. Coming from the theoretical framework of the cooperative communication model which is based on skills of shared intentionality, I first review relevant models of communication with a special focus on the Gricean account (Grice, 1975) and the literature on the development of communicative intentions in general and directive speech acts more specifically. I then go on to present relevant studies to show that also young children, by as early as 18 months, when communicating, have a separate intention to be understood, interpret requests cooperatively and assume cooperation in their partner. I discuss whether abstract conversational maxims - like those posited by Grice - are indeed necessary for children to react appropriately and draw relevant inferences.

Zeit: 18:00-19:30 Uhr

Ort: Campus Fachhochschule Potsdam

Theatersaal im Hauptgebäude (HG)

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