



Kickoff workshop on “Scales, degrees and implicature: Novel synergies between semantics and pragmatics”

This workshop brings together researchers in formal semantics, experimental pragmatics and computational modelling, who work on vagueness, granularity, scales, attenuation and implicature.

Date: 26 – 28 May 2021

Organizers

Nicole Gotzner, Stavroula Alexandropoulou and Radim Lacina

Key Questions

- How are scalar implicatures computed?
- What is the relation between different types of implicature (scalar, Manner, R-based strengthening)?
- What role does vagueness play in implicature?
- What is the role of degrees in the interpretation of gradable adjectives?
- Is imprecision semantic or pragmatic?

For additional information please visit our website:

<https://www.uni-potsdam.de/en/gotzner-spa/kickoff-workshop>

Session 1 – Horn scales and alternatives

26 May 2021, 12:50 – 19:00 (CEST UTC+2)

12:50 – 13:00	Introduction by the organizers
13:00 – 13:40	Jacopo Romoli on "On the strength of being positive" Response by Uli Sauerland
13:40 – 14:20	Radim Lacina & Nicole Gotzner on "The alternative activation theory: A unified account of the processing of focus and implicature?" Response by Matthew Husband
14:20 – 14:40	Break
14:40 – 15:20	Bob van Tiel & Chao Sun on "Scales and scalarity: Processing scalar inferences" Response by Diana Mazzarella
15:20 – 16:00	Brian Buccola on "Conceptual alternatives: Motivations, prospects, and caveats" Response by Richard Breheny
16:00 – 16:20	Break
16:20 – 17:00	Judith Degen on "Harnessing the linguistic signal in predicting within-scale variability in scalar inferences" Response by Ming Xiang
17:00 – 17:40	Laurence Horn on "Some reflections on scalar strength" Response by Manfred Krifka
17:40 – 18:10	Break
18:10 – 19:00	Social event: Wine tasting on Wonder.me with discussion in smaller groups

Session 1 research questions

- How are implicatures computed?
- What role do scales and alternatives play in implicature?
- How do different types of implicature interact?
- How should implicatures be modeled (formally and computationally)?

Session 2 – Scales, modifiers, negation and pragmatic principles

27 May 2021, 13:00 – 17:40 (CEST UTC+2)

13:00 – 13:40	Rick Nouwen on "Vacuity and competition in models of intensification" Response by Berit Gehrke & Elena Castroviejo
13:40 – 14:20	Stephanie Solt on "On saying less with more" Response by Lisa Bylinina
14:20 – 14:40	Break
14:40 – 15:20	Stavroula Alexandropoulou & Nicole Gotzner on "The measurement mechanism: The role of scale structure in implicature computation" Response by Louise McNally (Mercator fellow) & Ira Noveck (Mercator fellow)
15:20 – 16:00	Marina Terkourafi on " <i>Once more, with feeling!</i> : scalar interpretations under face considerations" Response by Michael Henry Tessler
16:00 – 16:20	Break
16:20 – 17:00	Natalia Zevakhina on "Conditional Perfection in promises and threats" Response by Carita Paradis
17:00 – 17:40	Andrea Beltrama on "Personae and pragmatic reasoning: How speaker information affects imprecision resolution" Response by Chris Cummins

Session 2 research questions

- What is the relation between measurement scales, degrees and Horn scales?
- How do degree modifiers, negation and granularity create social meanings and attenuation effects?
- How should polarity be modeled?
- What is the role of face management concerns in pragmatic inferences?

Session 3 – Vagueness, degrees and imprecision

28 May 2021, 12:00 – 17:10 (CEST UTC+2)

13:00 – 13:40	Vera Hohaus on "Superlative constructions: Towards a cross-linguistic typology" Response by Malte Zimmermann
13:40 – 14:20	Michael Franke on "Lipman's Puzzle Revisited" Response by Alexandre Cremers
14:20 – 14:40	Break
14:40 – 15:20	Helena Aparicio on "A new source of imprecision in the domain of gradable adjectives" Response by Paula Rubio-Fernandez
15:20 – 16:00	Chris Kennedy & Ming Xiang on "Pragmatic reasoning and semantic convention: A case study in gradable adjective thresholds" Response by Paul Égre
16:00 – 16:20	Break
16:20 – 17:00	Jessica Rett on "On the local calculation of manner implicatures" Response by Kristen Syrett
17:00 – 17:10	Closing words from the organizers

Session 3 research questions

- What role do degrees play in the semantics of gradable expressions?
- To what extent does the semantics of gradable predicates differ across languages?
- Is imprecision semantic or pragmatic?
- What is the role of vagueness in implicature?

Links for Zoom and Wonder.me

For the main workshop use this Zoom link:

<https://uni-potsdam.zoom.us/j/65602841197>

Meeting-ID: 656 0284 1197

Passcode: 73156249

For social events and during breaks use Wonder.me:

<https://www.wonder.me/r?id=92764e0b-a6fa-4b1c-ab2e-8444aba0e103>