



**Short-term fellow talk, Friday 13 July 2018, 12:15 pm, Campus
Golm, Building 24, Room 0.50**

Lara Schwarz will give a talk on

**Uniting the theoretical and the empirical through modeling
with Gradient Symbolic Computation**

Abstract:

Recent psycholinguistic research has shed light on the nature of language comprehension and production. For instance, we now have evidence of semantic, lexical and even structural competition, both within language and between languages. Concurrently, theoretical linguistics continues to pursue questions about the structure of grammar and how a speaker gets from meaning to form and from form to meaning. In this talk, I will discuss the need to bring these two disciplines together through modeling, specifically through Gradient Symbolic Computation (GSC). This talk will provide an overview of what GSC is and how it has been used in a variety of research programs to account for gradient representations and variation in speaker behavior. GSC made its first step into the world of syntax in 2016, and there are many domains of application yet to be explored. As a framework, it can be combined with different theories of language to interpret empirical data, which in turn can inform revisions to the theories. Closing out the talk, I will present as an example how GSC is employed in a project examining gender and case morphology use by moribund heritage German and Icelandic speakers in North America.

Everyone is cordially invited as well.