



SFB Guest Lecture

Friday, 17 June 2022, 4:00 pm

Location: Campus Golm, Building 14, Room 2.15/16 and online via ZOOM (see below)

Invited by the projects T01 and C06

Prof. Dr. [Amir Zeldes](#) (Georgetown University)

will give a talk on

“So ignore my hair right now” - why genre variation in discourse structure, relations and signals matters

Abstract:

Corpus Linguistics studies have shown that language usage varies strongly across genres, text types and domain, but most of the focus has been on variation in form, including morphology and syntax, but especially lexical items. In this talk I will focus on less studied functional variation in discourse organization, based on a tradition of work starting with Systemic Functional Linguistics and later formalized in discourse parsing in the framework of Rhetorical Structure Theory. Using the English GUM corpus, which was developed by students at Georgetown University to study genre variation in discourse, I will present a series of studies on quantitative variation in discourse graphs and its implications for efforts to build reliable, domain-general automatic discourse parsers. Results from our studies indicate that traditional parsers relying on newswire benchmarks have little hope of working in the wild, and suggest ways in which we could extend corpora, but also our theories of discourse organization, beyond the current state of the field.

Everyone is cordially invited.

ZOOM:

<https://uni-potsdam.zoom.us/j/64631003832>

Meeting-ID: 646 3100 3832

Kenncode: 12871287