Psycholinguistic and Computational Perspectives on Non-compositional Meaning in Phrases

29th-30th November, Tübingen (Fürstenzimmer, Hohentübingen)

The traditional view on the construction of phrasal meaning is compositional (i.e., the meaning of individual words is combined into phrasal meaning). For a considerable part of language, however, meaning cannot be directly derived via meaning composition of the individual constituent words of a phrase. Examples of such non-compositional phrases are idioms (e.g., to be on cloud nine), metaphors, (e.g., a blossoming mind), phrasal verbs (e.g. dig into something), prepositional phrases (e.g.,on the other hand), adjective-noun phrases (e.g., black coffee), and compounds (e.g., pineapple). While such examples of non-compositional language are ubiquitous in language use, there is not yet consensus on how these phrases should be represented in psycholinguistic and computational models of processing. It is precisely this non-compositionality that raises important questions for models of meaning, such as:

- How are such phrases represented and comprehended, and to what extent do the individual constituents contribute to phrasal meaning?
- How is meaning constitution impacted by language development (i.e., first and second language acquisition)?
- How does context impact access to non-compositional meaning?

Both computational and psycholinguistic approaches attempt to help us better model the bridge between form and meaning, and this workshop provides a platform for resolving interdisciplinary differences and encouraging cross-talk between junior and senior researchers. Particularly, we aim to ask how psycholinguistic modeling of non-compositional meaning can inform computational linguistic models and vice versa.

For this workshop, we invite submissions for presentation including but not limited to:

- Processing and representation of non-compositional, conventionalized, or figurative meaning
- Idioms, conventional metaphors, phrasal verbs, adjective-noun phrases, prepositional phrases, compound nouns, etc.
- Cross-linguistic perspectives on collocations and other non-compositional expressions
- Acquisition of phrasal meaning (L1 and L2)
- The impact of context on processing non-compositional meaning
- Challenges of non-compositionality for computational modeling of meaning, including logic-based and distributional aspects of meanings
- Data-driven methods for identifying non-compositional phrases and for distinguishing between compositional and non-compositional meanings
- The intersection of psycholinguistic and computational perspectives on non-compositional meaning