

AMLaP 2020 Opening Address

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Department of Linguistics, Universität Potsdam



Some highlights

- Special Session on Computational Models of Language Processing.
- Keynote speakers:
 - Milena Rabovsky
 - Andrea Martin
 - Tal Linzen
 - Colin Phillips
 - Jeff Rouder

Some highlights

- ~10 talks every day
- One poster session each day
- An experiment: Gather.town for socialising
(more from Titus von der Malsburg on this)

Satellite events

The First South Asian Forum on the Acquisition and Processing of Language (SAFAL)

University of Potsdam, Germany

31st August, 1st September and 2nd September 2020

Organised by Eva Wittenberg (UCSD),
Samar Husain (IIT Delhi), Shravan Vasishth (Potsdam)

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<https://sites.google.com/view/safal2020/home>

Satellite events

The Fourth Annual Summer School on
Statistical Methods for Linguistics and Psychology (SMLP)

7-11 September 2020

<https://vasishth.github.io/smlp2020/>

Organised by Shravan Vasishth (Potsdam)

All these events were funded by:



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Acknowledgements

- The Chair: Titus von der Malsburg
- The Vasishth lab team: Garrett Smith, Bruno Nicenboim, Sol Lago, Kate Stone, Daniel Schad, Dario Paape, Daniela Mertzen, Dorothea Pregla, Paula Lisson, Anna Laurinavichyute, Pia Schoknecht, Joao Verissimo, Yana Arkhiphova
- The Linguistics dept. + SFB 1287 team: Tom Fritzsché, Sandra Hanne, Audrey Buerki, Michaela Schmitz, David Ziegert, Isabell Wartenburger
- Brian Dillon for advice based on his CUNY 2020 experience.

Acknowledgements

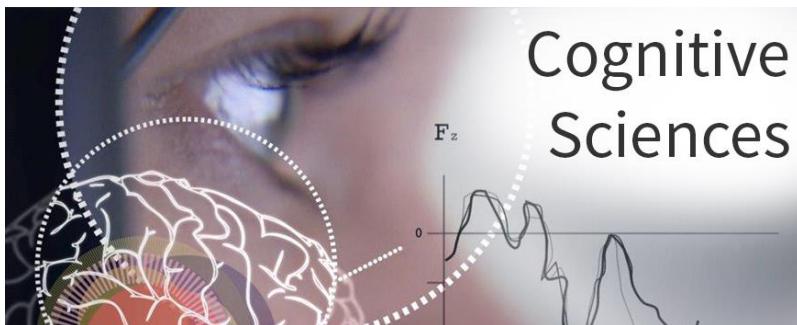
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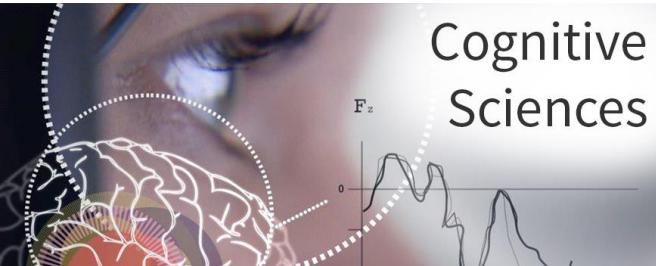
Welcome to the University of Potsdam

One University – Three Locations – Six Faculties

- Founded in 1991
- Three locations, about 20.000 students
- Four research focuses, one is: Cognitive Sciences
- Fruitful collaboration of Depts. Linguistics & Psychology & other disciplines (data-centric sciences, computer science, German studies, ...)



Research Focus Cognitive Sciences



Cognitive
Sciences

Syntax
Multilingualism
Experimental Psychology
Developmental Psychology
Methods
Semantics
Biological Psychology
Developmental Language Disorders
Language Acquisition
Patholinguistics
Cognitive Neuroscience
Computational Linguistics
Neurolinguistics
Affective Sciences
Phonology
Computational Modeling
Cognitive Sciences

uni-potsdam.de/en/cognitive-sciences/

uni-potsdam.de/en/ling/

psych.uni-potsdam.de/department/units-e

CRC/SFB Limits of Variability in Language

Collaborative Research Centre (CRC/SFB)
„SFB 1287: Limits of Variability in Language:
Cognitive, Grammatical, and Social Aspects“
uni-potsdam.de/en/sfb1287/

- Started in 2017
- 21 PIs, 13 Scientific Projects
- Individual variability within and between speakers, speaker communities and languages = meaningful signal → better understanding of the underlying architecture and processing mechanisms
- Funding for CRC/SFB, AMLaP2020, SAFAL, SMLP:



Funded by



Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft

German Research Foundation

International Masters Programs

Several international Masters Programms

- 2-year programs
- completely taught in English
- essentially no fees (just 600 EUR administration fee per year, incl. train ticket Berlin-Potsdam)
- MSc **Linguistics: Empirical and Theoretical Foundations (LING)** www.uni-potsdam.de/en/studium/what-to-study/master/masters-courses-from-a-to-z/linguistics-master
- MSc **Cognitive Systems (COGSYS)** ling.uni-potsdam.de/cogsys/
- MSc PhD **Experimental and Clinical Linguistics (IECL)** uni-potsdam.de/en/iecl/
- MSc PhD **Cognitive Science – Embodied Cognition (Psych)** uni-potsdam.de/de/studium/studienangebot/masterstudium/master-a-z/cognitive-science
- MSc **Data Science (Maths)** math.uni-potsdam.de/studium/studieninteressierte/data-science-master/



UP Overview: uni-potsdam.de/en/studium/what-to-study/english-language-courses-and-degree-programs

uni-potsdam.de/en/ling/researchgroups/
psych.uni-potsdam.de/department/units-e

Numerous Research Groups and Labs...

Cognitive Neuroscience Lab



Foto: Milena Rabovsky

At the Cognitive Neuroscience Lab at the University of Potsdam (Rabovsky Lab), we combine explicit computational models (specifically, artificial neural network models, aka deep learning models) and neuroscientific evidence (mostly event-related brain potentials, ERPs) in order to understand the neurorecognition of language and meaning.

We receive funding from the German Research Foundation (DFG) via an Emmy Noether grant. We are associated with the Collaborative Research Centers [Limits of Variability in Language \(SFB1287\)](#) and [Data Assimilation \(SFB 1294\)](#) at the University of Potsdam.

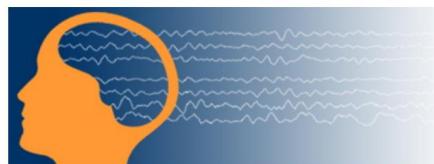


Image: Janine Wirkner

Department of Developmental Psychology: Welcome!



Welcome to the "EyeLab"



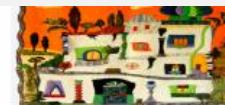
LOLA: Laboratory for Oral Language Acquisition

At the Laboratory for Oral Language Acquisition, we are interested in the (atypical) development of speech motor control and its interactions with perceptual, phonological and lexical developments.



Cognitive Sciences

Cognitive Science is an interdisciplinary attempt to investigate the human mind. Within our research group we put special emphasis on sensory and motor components of knowledge representation. The so-called "embodied cognition" is the main research focus of the Potsdam Embodied Cognition Group (PECOG) under the direction of Prof. Martin Fischer, PhD.



Developmental Language Disorders

We adopt a comparative approach to the study of language. Our work is comparative along several dimensions: we compare language families (Germanic, Romance, Semitic), speakers of different age groups

vasishth lab

Psycholinguistics and Neurolinguistics

We develop computational models of human sentence comprehension; focusing on both impaired and unimpaired populations. We are also interested in statistical theory and practice.



Syntax, Morphology & Variability

Research at the syntax division of Potsdam linguistics aims at understanding the limits of grammatical variation between the world's languages in the area of sentence structure.



Multilingualism

The Potsdam Research Institute for Multilingualism (PRIM) investigates the nature of multilingualism in children and adults, including patients with language disorders.



Semantics

Our research focuses on the compositional derivation of sentence meanings from their atomic parts, adopting an explicit cross-linguistic perspective.



Phonology & Phonetics

We develop theory, do experiments (fMRI, Ultrasound, chromometric studies) and apply math tools to understand the relation between the continuity of the phonetic signal and the discreteness of grammar.



Foundations of Computational Linguistics

Our research focusses on the foundations of computational linguistics, both on the formal and theoretical-linguistic sides.



CSLM

Cognitive Science
Language & Methods

Cognitive Science: Language and Methods

Using various methodological tools and measures (behavioral experiments, acoustic analyses, corpus data, event-related potentials), our research aims at better understanding the cognitive mechanisms



Language Acquisition

The language acquisition group has a focus on the early acquisition of phonological and syntactic knowledge in monolingual and bilingual typically ...

The SFB 1287 "Limits of Variability in Language" will evaluate the limits, relations, dependencies, and commonalities of variability across a range of linguistic phenomena from different perspectives.



Alexander von Humboldt

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Thank you all for being here!

Next time:



I wish you a successful and stimulating conference & lots of fun!

**Many thanks to
the organization team in Potsdam!**



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DFG Deutsche
Forschungsgemeinschaft
German Research Foundation

