

## **Modal particles do not modify speech acts**

It is a wide-held view that German modal particles function as some kind of speech act modifier, restricting or altering the speech act that is or can be performed by an utterance (e.g. Jacobs 1991, Karagjosova 2004; see also Zimmermann 2004; 2014). In this talk, I will argue against this view and instead defend the alternative position (also found in the literature) that modal particles effect the semantic level of an utterance by interaction with sentential mood, thereby indirectly altering the speech act potential of an utterance. Besides collecting arguments against the speech act view from the literature (e.g. based on the cross-sentential distribution of modal particles), I will also present some new arguments in favor of the mood-based approach, which are, amongst others, based on the interaction of modal particles with sentence embedding verbs or how they interact with other mood-level operators.