

Feb 19, 2021

Dear Editorial Board,

Please find attached a copy of our manuscript, "Prior beliefs modulate projection." This manuscript is our original work, has not been previously published, and is not currently under consideration elsewhere. We would appreciate your considering it for publication as a Research Report in Open Mind.

We report results from a series of experiments on English, showing that prior beliefs systematically modulate projection of the content of clausal complements of predicates like "know" and "discover", as in "Did Cole discover that Julian dances salsa?": the more a priori likely the content is (that Julian dances salsa), the more likely it is to project, regardless of the predicate. Based on the results we argue for a tighter integration of formal analyses of projection, which have traditionally sidelined the role of world knowledge/prior beliefs in meaning computation, with cognitive theories of language understanding.

Our submission includes the manuscript itself as well as our OSF pre-registration as a pdf with identifying information blacked out. (Unfortunately, we couldn't just provide a URL to an anonymized OSF pre-registration because the linked GitHub repository URLs include identifying information.)

Possible reviewers with relevant domain knowledge include Hannah Rohde (U. of Edinburgh), Chris Cummins (U. of Edinburgh), and Kyle Rawlins (Johns Hopkins).

Thanks for your consideration. Please let us know if you require additional information.

Sincerely,

Judith Degen and Judith Tonhauser