Sven Lauer

March 2018

Zukunftskolleg and **Department of Linguistics**

University of Konstanz, Box 216
Universitätsstraße 10
78457 Konstanz
Germany

+49 7531 / 88 - 5643
http://www.sven-lauer.net
sven@sven-lauer.net

EDUCATION

2007–2013   **Ph.D. in Linguistics**, Stanford University, 2013.
Dissertation: **Towards a dynamic pragmatics**
Committee: Cleo Condoravdi, Christopher Potts (co-chairs), Paul Kiparsky.

2005–2007   Universiteit van Amsterdam
Institute for Logic, Language and Computation (ILLC)
M.Sc. student in Logic

2001–2005   **B.Sc. in Cognitive Science** with distinction, Universität Osnabrück, 2005.

2003-2004   University of Edinburgh
School of Informatics
Visiting undergraduate

EMPLOYMENT

2016–present   **University of Konstanz**
Zukunftskolleg and Department of Linguistics
Fellow and Director of the Emmy-Noether-Group *What is it to ask a question? — A formal pragmatic investigation of interrogative force.*

2017–2018   **University of Konstanz**
Department of Linguistics
Interim Professor (50 %), W3 professorship *General Linguistics with emphasis on semantics* (October 2017 – March 2018)

2016   **University of Göttingen**
Department of English
Postdoctoral Researcher

2013–2016   **University of Konstanz**
Zukunftskolleg and Department of Linguistics
Postdoctoral Fellow
Project: *Pragmatic Inference based on Linguistic Preferences* (PI)

Grants, Fellowships and Prizes

Grants (third-party)

2016–2021   Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), Emmy Noether programe.
What is it to ask a question?—A formal pragmatic investigation of interrogative force.
€782 250 (≈ $865 000) over five years.
(€520 350 granted for three years, €261 900 scheduled for the final two years)

Grants (on-campus)

2018   **Mentorship**, grant for mutual visits with Kjell Johan Sæbø.
Zukunftskolleg, University of Konstanz.

2015   **Foundations of Semantics**, grant for a scientific retreat.
Zukunftskolleg, University of Konstanz.
(with Brendan Balcerak Jackson)

2015   **Mentorship**, grant for mutual visits with Cleo Condoravdi.
Zukunftskolleg, University of Konstanz.

2014–2015   **Foundations of Semantics**, grant for a series of invited speakers.
Zukunftskolleg, University of Konstanz.
(with Brendan Balcerak Jackson and Doris Penka)

Fellowships

2013–2015   **Marie-Curie Incoming Fellowship**, Zukunftskolleg, University of Konstanz.

2012–2013   **Mellon Dissertation Year Fellowship**, Stanford University.

2007–2012   **George H. Mayr Graduate Fellowship**, Stanford University.

Nominations

2017   **Heinz Maier Leibnitz Prize**, awarded by the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), nomination by the University of Konstanz. *Decision pending.*

Publications

[Google Scholar Profile](#) (citations: 444 / h-index: 11 / i10-index: 12)

Journal articles

in revision   Anna Czypionka and Sven Lauer, **'#Tall this week': experimental evidence for an false-implication account**, in revision for resubmission at *Language*.

in revision   Sven Lauer and Prerna Nadathur, **Causal necessity, causal sufficiency, and the implications of causative verbs**, in revision for resubmission at *Glossa*, for the special issue *The grammar of dispositions*, ed. by Fabienne Martin and Tillmann Pross.

| 2016 | Cleo Condoravdi and Sven Lauer, 2016, **Anankastic conditionals are just conditionals**, *Semantics and Pragmatics*, 9(8). |

| 2014 | Sven Lauer and Cleo Condoravdi, 2014, **Preference-conditioned necessities: Detachment and practical reasoning**, *Pacific Philosophical Quarterly*, 95(4), 584-621. |

Articles in refereed collections

| 2012 | Cleo Condoravdi and Sven Lauer, 2012, **Imperatives: Meaning and illocutionary force**, in C. Pinõn (ed.) *Empirical Issues in Syntax and Semantics 9, Papers from the Colloque de Syntaxe et Sémantique à Paris 2011*, 37-58. |

| 2012 | Alex Djalali, Sven Lauer and Christopher Potts, 2012, **Corpus evidence for preference-driven interpretation**, in M. Aloni, V. Kimmelman, F. Roelofsen, G. Weidman Sassoon, K. Schulz, and M. Westera (eds.) *Proceedings of the 18th Amsterdam Colloquium: Revised Selected Papers*, 150-159. Berlin: Springer. |

| 2011 | Alex Djalali, David Clausen, Sven Lauer, Karl Schultz, and Christopher Potts, 2011, **Modeling expert effects and common ground using questions under discussion**, in *Building Representations of Common Ground with Intelligent Agents: Papers from the 2011 AAAI Fall Symposium*, 10-15, Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence, Washington D.C. |

Proceedings of refereed conferences and workshops

| 2017 | Sven Lauer, **'I believe' in a ranking-theoretic analysis of 'believe'**, Proceedings of the Twenty-First Amsterdam Colloquium, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, p. 335-344. |

| 2017 | Cleo Condoravdi and Sven Lauer, 2017. **Conditional imperatives and endorsement**, Proceedings of NELS 47, p. 185-204. |

| in press | Sven Lauer and Prerna Nadathur, in press. **Quantified indicative conditionals and the relative reading of** *most*, *Sinn und Bedeutung 21*. |

| 2016 | Sven Lauer, 2016. **On the status of 'Maximize Presupposition'**, *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 26*. |

| 2015 | Sven Lauer, 2015. **Performative uses and the temporal interpretation of modals**, in T. Brochhagen, Floris Roelofsen and Nadine Theiler (eds.) *Proceedings of the 20th Amsterdam Colloquium*, Amsterdam, The Netherlands. |

| 2015 | Sven Lauer, 2015. **Biscuits and provisos: Conveying unconditional information by conditional means**, in E. Csipak and H. Zeijlstra (eds.) *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 19*, Göttingen, p 357-374. |

| 2014 | Sven Lauer, 2014. **Mandatory implicatures in Gricean pragmatics**, in J. Degen, M. Franke, and N. Goodman (eds.) *Proceedings of the Formal & Experimental Pragmatics Workshop*, Tübingen, p 21-28. |

2012	Anna Chernilovskaya, Cleo Condoravdi and Sven Lauer, 2012. **On the discourse effects of *wh*-exclamatives**, in N. Arnett and R. Bennett (eds.) *Proceedings of the 30th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL)*, Cascadilla Press, Somerville, MA, p. 109-119.
2012	Sven Lauer, 2012. **On the pragmatics of pragmatic slack**, in A. Aguilar, R. Nouwen and A. Chernilovskaya (eds.) *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 16*, MIT Working Papers in Linguistics, Cambridge, MA, p. 389-402.
2011	Cleo Condoravdi and Sven Lauer, 2011. **Performative verbs and performative acts**, in I. Reich (ed.) *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 15*, Universaar—Saarland Unversity Press, Saarbrücken, Germany, p. 149-164.

Dissertation

2013	Lauer, Sven, 2013. **Towards a dynamic pragmatics**, Ph.D. dissertation, Stanford University.

Manuscripts and work in progress

2012	Lauer, Sven. **Some news on *irgend-* and *algún***, manuscript, Stanford University.
2010	Lauer, Sven. **Periphrastic causative verbs in English: What do they mean?**, manuscript, Stanford University.
2009	Lauer, Sven. **Free relatives with '-ever': Meaning and use**, manuscript, Stanford University.

TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

Invited talks

2017	**The functional heterogeneity of interrogative sentences: An 'optimistic' approach.** 2nd workshop on Inquisitiveness Below and Beyond the Sentence Boundary (InqBnB2), Universiteit van Amsterdam, December 18-19, 2017.
2017	**Biscuit conditionals, questions, and biscuit-conditional questions**, Biscuit Conditionals workshop, University of Hamburg, October 20-21, 2017.
2017	**Prolegomena to a unified theory of interrogative force**, 2nd Speech Act workshop, ZAS, Berlin, May 29-31, 2017.
2016	**(Un)conditional imperatives, (un)conditional modals, and (un)conditional endorsement**, Seminar für Sprachwissenschaft, Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen, June 6, 2016.
2015	**Speech act operators vs. extra-compositional conventions of use: What are the issues?**, Speech Act Workshop, ZAS, Berlin, June 11-13, 2015.
2015	**Conditionalized modal sentences: Modus ponens and Strengthening of the antecedent**, Interdisciplinary Logic Colloquium, University of Konstanz, February 5, 2015.

2015   **Exclamatives: The conventional dynamic effect of an 'expressive' sentence type**, Colloquium of the Department of Linguistics, University of Konstanz, Januar 22, 2015.

2015   **Doing things with words: The case of exclamatives**, Department of English, University of Göttingen, January 12, 2015.

2011   **You can't always want what you want: Understanding Anankastic conditionals**, Berkeley Syntax and Semantics Circle, University of California, Berkeley, October 21, 2011.

2011   **Varieties of compositionality and loose talk**, Department of Linguistics, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität, Frankfurt am Main, Germany, September 28, 2011.

Refereed conferences and workshops

2018   with Erlinde Meertens: **Crosslinguistic variation in a minor sentence type: Melioratives in Dutch and German**, Workshop on non-canonical imperatives, Humboldt-Universität zu Berlin, Germany, May 25 - 26, 2018.

2018   with Sunwoo Jeong: **The functional heterogeneity of interrogatives: An 'optimistic' approach.** Why Indeed? Questions at the Interface of Theoretical and Computational Linguistics, workshop at the *40th Annual Conference of the DGfS*, University of Stuttgart, March 7 - 9, 2018.

2017   **'I believe' in a ranking-theoretic analysis of 'believe'**, Twenty-first Amsterdam Colloquium, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, December 20–22, 2017.

2016   with Anna Czypionka: **Temporal implicatures and world knowledge interact rapidly during sentence comprehension**, Logic in Language and in Conversation (LogiCon), Utrecht University, September 19–20, 2016 (poster).

2016   with Prerna Nadathur: **Quantified indicative conditionals and the relative reading of "most"**, Sinn und Bedeutung 21, University of Edinburgh, September 4–6, 2016.

2016   with Anna Czypionka: **This week, but not next: Temporal implicatures and their interplay with world knowledge during language comprehension**, Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing (AMLaP), Bilbao, September 1–3, 2016 (poster).

2016   **On the status of 'Maximize Presupposition'**, Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 26, University of Texas at Austin, May 12–15, 2016.

2015   **Performative uses and the temporal interpretation of modals**, Twentieth Amsterdam Colloquium, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, December 16–18, 2015.

2015   with Cleo Condoravdi: **Hypothetical facts and hypothetical ideals in the temporal dimension**, Modelling Modality, workshop at the 37th Annual Meeting of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (DGfS), Leipzig, Germany, March 4-6, 2015.

2014	**Biscuits and provisos: Conveying unconditional information by conditional means**, Sinn und Bedeutung 19, University of Göttingen, September 15-17, 2014.
2014	with Alex Djalali: **A conceptual-epistemic perspective on model theory**, Models in Formal Semantics and Pragmatics, workshop at the 26th European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI), University of Tübingen, August 18-22, 2014.
2014	**Mandatory implicatures in Gricean pragmatics**, Formal and Experimental Pragmatics, workshop at the 26th European Summer School in Logic, Language and Information (ESSLLI), University of Tübingen, August 11-15, 2014.
2013	with Cleo Condoravdi: **Preference-Conditioned necessities: Anankastic and related conditionals**, USC Deontic Modality workshop, University of Southern Calfiornia, May 20-22, 2013.
2012	with Anna Chernilovskaya and Cleo Condoravdi: **How to express yourself: On the discourse effect of exclamatives**, 30th West Coast Conference on Formal Linguistics (WCCFL), University of California, Santa Cruz, April 13-15, 2012.
2011	Alex Djalali, Sven Lauer and Christopher Potts: **Corpora-driven pragmatics and reference resolution**, Eighteenth Amsterdam Colloquium, Amsterdam, The Netherlands, December 19-21, 2011 (poster).
2011	**On the pragmatics of pragmatic slack**, Sinn und Bedeutung 16, Universiteit Utrecht, The Netherlands, September 6-8, 2011.
2011	**Necessity and sufficiency in the semantics of English periphrastic causatives**, Annual Meeting of the Linguistic Society of America (LSA), Pittsburgh, PA, January 6-9, 2011.
2010	**Some news on *irgendein* and *algún***, Workshop on Epistemic Indefinites, University of Göttingen, Germany, June 10-12, 2010.
2010	with Cleo Condoravdi: **Performative verbs and performative acts**, Sinn und Bedeutung (SuB) 15, Saarland University, Germany, September 9-11, 2010.
2010	David Clausen, Alex Djalali, Scott Grimm, Sven Lauer, Tania Rojas-Esponda, and Beth Levin: **Extension, ontological type, and morphosyntactic class: Three ingredients of countability**, Conference on Empirical, Theoretical and Computational Approaches to Countability in Natural Language, Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Germany, September 22-24, 2010.
2009	**The '-ever' in 'whatever': What, and how?** Workshop on expressives and other kinds of non-truth-conditional meaning, held as part of the 31st Annual Meeting of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft (DGfS), Osnabrück, Germany, March 3-6, 2009.

Selected other talks

2017	**Moore's paradox and hedging with 'I Believe': An attempt.** *Questioning Speech Acts*, University of Konstanz, September 14 - 16, 2017.

2017 with Prerna Nadathur: **Causal necessity, causal sufficiency, and the meaning of causative verbs**, Workshop on modeling causality in formal semantics, University of Konstanz, May 22, 2017.

2016 with Prerna Nadathur: **Quantified indicative conditionals and the relative reading of** *most*, California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP) 9, University of California, Santa Cruz, October 21–22, 2016.

2015 **Temporal interpretation and the performative use of modals**, California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP) 8, Stanford University, November 6–7, 2015.

2014 **Formal semantics, formal pragmatics, and the meaning of desire predicates**, Jour Fixe, Zukunftskolleg, University of Konstanz, May 8, 2014.

2012 **Implicature tests, and how to fail them: A class of 'obligatory' Gricean conversational implicatures**, California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP) 5, University of Califoria, San Diego, October 27–28, 2012.

2012 with Cleo Condoravdi: **Anankastic Conditionals are just conditionals**, California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP) 4, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, February 3-4, 2012.

2011 **Making things happen: Sufficiency causatives in English and Japanese (and German?)**, Workshop on aspect and modality in lexical semantics, Universität Stuttgart, Germany, September 30, 2011.

2011 with Cleo Condoravdi: **Towards a null theory of explicit performatives**, Speaking of Possibility and Time II: 1st Workshop on Evidence and Inference, University of Göttingen, Germany, June 3-4, 2011.

2010 **A pragmatic account of loose talk**, California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP) 3, Stanford University, October 15–16, 2010.

2010 with Cleo Condoravdi: **Imperatives and public commitments**, 11th Annual Semantics Fest, Stanford University, March 12, 2010.

2009 with Cleo Condoravdi: **Performing a wish: Desiderative assertions and performativity**, California University Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP) 2, University of California, Santa Cruz, November 21, 2009.

2009 **'Causative'** *make*: **a veridical, metaphysical conditional?** Workshop on Counterfactuals, Causality and Inertia. Stanford University, August 4, 2010.

2009 **Free choice of the** *irgend*-**kind: Not as wide as you might think**, California Universities Semantics and Pragmatics (CUSP) 1, University of California, Los Angeles, May 23-24, 2009.

Teaching and Advising

Teaching

University of Konstanz

2017	**Semantics III: The semantics of conditional structures**, MA seminar.
2017	**Einführung in die Sprachwissenschaft** (Introduction to Linguistics), with Doris Penka.
2014	**Semantik I (Introduction to Formal Semantics)**.

University of Göttingen

2016	**Introduction to English Linguistics**.
2016	**Seminar in pragmatics: Speech acts in discourse**.

Stanford University

2011	**Logic and Language Lab**.

North-American Summer School in Logic, Language and Information

2010	**Imperative Meaning in Context**, with Cleo Condoravdi.

Advising and supervision

Primary advisor

in progress	**Felix Frühauf**, Ph.D. in Linguistics, University of Konstanz
in progress	**Sandy Ciroux**, Ph.D. in Linguistics, University of Konstanz.

Secondary Advisor

in progress	**Ronja Bruderhofer**, M.A. Linguistics, University of Konstanz.
2017	**Ricarda Katzenbach**, M.A. Wirtschaftspädagogik, University of Konstanz. "'Ach, das war doch nur ironisch gemeint' — Zur Produktions- und Rezeptionstheorie von Ironie" ('Oh, I meant that ironically — On the production and reception of verbal irony')
2016-2017	**Jette Fortmann**, B.A. Linguistics, University of Konstanz. "Modalpartikeln in Nebensätzen" ('Discourse particles in subordinate clauses')
2015	**Helge Linnert**, B.A. Linguistics, University of Konstanz. "Floated numeral quantifiers: The view from Japanese"
2014-2015	**Charlotte Bertet**, M.A. Linguistics, University of Konstanz. "Reportive Subjunctive in German"

Teaching Assistantships

Stanford University

2011   **Introduction to Linguistic Meaning**. Instructor: Chris Potts.

2010   **Introduction to Linguistics**. Instructor: Vivienne Fong.

2008   **Introduction to Syntax**. Instructor: Tom Wasow.

Universität Osnabrück

2005   **Introduction to Computational Linguistics**. Instructors: Graham Katz and Stephan Evert.

2004   **Introduction to Linguistics**. Instructor: Graham Katz.

2002   **Introduction to Computational Linguistics**. Instructors: Peter Bosch and Sabine Reinhart.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2011   **Research Assistant**, Stanford University.
Programming and data collection for the CARDS corpus.
Supervisor: Christopher Potts.

2002-2003   **Research Assistant**, Universität Osnabrück.
Administering corpus resources, providing technical support to corpus users, giving introductory presentations about corpus tools.
Supervisor: Graham Katz.

SERVICE

Peer Review

2014–present   **Member of the Editorial Board**
Semantics & Pragmatics.

2013–present   **Reviewer** (journals)
Linguistics & Philosophy (4×), Journal of Semantics (6×), Semantics & Pragmatics (6×), Natural Language and Linguistic Theory, Glossa, Journal of Germanic Linguistics, Mind, Discourse Processes, Journal of Pragmatics.

2013–present   **Reviewer** (conferences, &c.)
Sinn und Bedeutung, Semantics and Linguistic Theory, Amsterdam Colloquium, North East Linguistics Society (NELS), Chicago Linguistics Society (CLS), XPrag, various workshops & collections.

Departmental Service and Committees

2017-present **Member of the Executive Committee**
Zukunftskolleg, University of Konstanz (since November 2017).

2017-present **Member of the faculty search committee** (English Linguistics/Phonology)
Department of Linguistics, University of Konstanz.

2014-2016 **Fellow Representative to the Department of Linguistics**
Zukunftskolleg, University of Konstanz.

2009-2010 **Member of the colloquium committee**
Department of Linguistics, Stanford University.

2008-2009 **Graduate Student Representative**
Department of Linguistics, Stanford University.

2008-2009 **Member of the Graduate Curriculum Review committee**
Department of Linguistics, Stanford University.

2007-2008 **Member of the social committee**
Department of Linguistics, Stanford University.

Organization of Workshops and Working Groups

2017 **Biscuit Conditionals**, workshop.
Co-Organizer, with Arno Goebel and Julia Zakkou, University of Hamburg.

2017 **Questioning Speech Acts**, workshop.
Co-Organizer, with Regine Eckardt, University of Konstanz.

2017 **Modeling causal dependencies in formal semantics**
Organizer, University of Konstanz.

2015 **New work on modals, conditionals and evidentials**, workshop.
Organizer, University of Konstanz.

2014-2016 **Foundations of Semantics**, working group and speaker series.
Cofounder and co-organizer, with Brendan Balcerak Jackson and Doris Penka, University of Konstanz.

2010 **Game Theory and Communication**, workshop.
Co-organizer, with Allistair Isaac and Thomas Icard, Stanford University.

2009 **Counterfactuals, Causality and Inertia** (N3C), workshop.
Organizer, Stanford University.

2008-2010 **Construction of Meaning**, workshop / speaker series.
Co-Organizer, with Beth Levin and Scott Grimm, Stanford University.

2007-2011 **Formal Pragmatics**, working group.
Founder and Organizer, Stanford University.

REFERENCES

Cleo Condoravdi
Professor
Department of Linguistics
Margaret Jacks Hall, Building 460
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305-2150
USA
cleoc@stanford.edu

Christopher Potts
Professor
Department of Linguistics
Margaret Jacks Hall, Building 460
Stanford University
Stanford, CA 94305-2150
USA
cgpotts@stanford.edu