

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 programme.
What is it to ask a question?—A formal pragmatic investigation of interrogative force.
€782 250 (\approx \$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.
Zukunftscolleg, University of Konstanz.
- 2015 **Foundations of Semantics**, grant for a scientific retreat.
Zukunftscolleg, University of Konstanz.
(with Brendan Balcerak Jackson)
- 2015 **Mentorship**, grant for mutual visits with Cleo Condoravdi.
Zukunftscolleg, University of Konstanz.
- 2014–2015 **Foundations of Semantics**, grant for a series of invited speakers.
Zukunftscolleg, University of Konstanz.
(with Brendan Balcerak Jackson and Doris Penka)

Fellowships

- 2013–2015 **Marie-Curie Incoming Fellowship**, Zukunftscolleg, 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 Czipionka 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)*, Cascadia 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 University 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 Czipionka: **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 Czipionka: **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 (ESSLI), 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 (ESSLI), 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 California, 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 California, 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 **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**
Zukunfts Kolleg, 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**
Zukunfts Kolleg, 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.