



KATHOLISCHE UNIVERSITÄT
EICHSTÄTT-INGOLSTADT

Creativity and Construction Grammar International Workshop

<http://ku.de/cxg-creativity>

Alexander Bergs (Osnabrück), Hendrick de Smet (Leuven), Holger Diessel (Jena), Thomas Herbst (Erlangen), Thomas Hoffmann (Eichstätt), Kai-Uwe Kühnberger (Osnabrück), Karin Madlener (Basel), Peter Schneck (Osnabrück), Peter Uhrig (Erlangen), Paul van Eecke (Paris), Alexander Ziem (Düsseldorf)

Catholic University Eichstätt-Ingolstadt
September 14-15, 2017 • 9:30 - 16:15 • WH-103
Chair of English Linguistics (Prof. Thomas Hoffmann)

Day Schedule — 14 September

9:30–10:00	Thomas HOFFMANN (Eichstätt)	Introduction
10:00–10:45	Holger DIESSEL (Jena)	A dynamic network approach to the study of argument structure and linguistic creativity
10:45–11:00	Coffee break	
11:00–11:45	Karin MADLENER (Basel)	Dialectal constructional productivity at the intersection between morphology and syntax: The case of Swiss German <i>aperöle</i> verbs
11:45–13:45	Lunch break Venue: Braugasthof Trompete – see below	
13:45–14:30	Alexander BERGS (Osnabrück)	“Learn the rules like a pro, so you can break them like an artist.” (Picasso): Linguistic aberrancy from a constructional perspective
14:30–15:15	Kai-Uwe KÜHNBERGER (Osnabrück)	Conceptual structures and creativity
15:15–15:30	Coffee break	
15:30–16:15	Discussion	
18:30	Dinner (Gaststätte „Zum Gutmann” – see below)	

Day Schedule — 15 September

9:15–10:00 Paul VAN EECKE (Paris) Implementing creativity and flexibility in computational construction grammar

10:00–10:45 Alexander ZIEM (Düsseldorf) There is no such thing in grammar as normal: Dimensions of constructional creativity

10:45–11:00 Coffee break

11:00–11:45 Thomas HERBST (Erlangen) Speakers will only be creative under very special circumstances

Peter UHRIG (Erlangen) Creativity is pervasive and is what makes language human

11:45–13:45 Lunch break
Venue: Braugasthof Trompete
– see below

13:45–14:30 Peter SCHNECK (Osnabrück) Phenomenal creativity: The example of Henry James

14:30–15:15 Hendrick DE SMET (Leuven) Unwitting inventors: how innovations arise in language change

15:15–15:30 Coffee break


15:30–16:15 Discussion

18:30 Dinner (Gasthof Krone — see below)

Abstracts

● A dynamic network approach to the study of argument structure and linguistic creativity

Holger DIESSEL


 September 14, 10:00–10:45

In this paper I argue that one can think of argument structure as a dynamic network of lexemes and constructions that are associated with each other by probabilistic links shaped by two general aspects of language use: (i) the semantic fit of lexemes and constructions (i.e. categorization), and (ii) the language users' experience with particular co-occurrence patterns (i.e. entrenchment). Building on this view of argument structure, it is shown that the extension of argument structure constructions to novel verbs is influenced by a large number of factors including (i) the semantic similarity between verbs, (ii) the number of verb types that are licensed by (competing) constructions, (iii) the token frequency with which individual verbs and constructions co-occur, (iv) the conceptual organization of constructions, (v) the proportion of alternating and non-alternating verbs that are associated with semantically related constructions, and (v) the semantic-pragmatic relations between competing argument constructions. The proposed analysis is supported by data from research on L1 acquisition, sentence processing and language change.

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● Dialectal constructional productivity at the intersection between morphology and syntax The case of Swiss German *aperöle* verbs

Karin MADLENER

 September 14, 11:00–11:45

How can we measure dialectal constructional productivity/creativity? Which factors determine degrees of productivity and the acceptability of creative ad hoc coinages? And how does a constructionist approach possibly add to our understanding of productivity/creativity/coercion in the domain of verbal morphology? Based on data from a pilot survey (n=80), I discuss a range of factors influencing degrees of productivity/creativity for the denominal *-le*-verb pattern (e.g., *käffele*, *aperöle*, *ipödle*, *kungfule*) in Swiss German dialects. This morphological pattern is currently highly productive, as indicated by substantial numbers of creative ad hoc coinages (oral and written evidence) as well as our participants' acceptability judgements (for both isolated verbs and verbs in sentences) and their elicited productions (meaning paraphrases and sentence contexts). I will focus on (1) schema-based frequency/familiarity effects, (2) implicit and explicit analogy effects (e.g., *teele* « *käffele*, *z' nünele* « *z' mörgele*), and (3) prototypicality effects related both to particular semantic classes (e.g., of eating and drinking) and to constructional contexts (e.g., *Ich gang go z' nünele* vs. *Er z' nünelet*). The latter in particular highlight the potential of a constructionist approach to productivity/creativity with regard to the role of both concrete exemplars and more abstract schemas as well as the interplay be-

tween the traditional domains of morphology and syntax in jointly determining degrees of productivity/creativity.

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● Conceptual structures and creativity

Kai-Uwe KÜHNBERGER


 September 14, 14:30–15:15

The talk will give an overview of the usage of conceptual structures, such as metaphor, conceptual blending, image schemas etc., to model creativity in different domains of interest. I will sketch the ideas of a formal specification of certain domains like music and mathematics and show how algorithmic frameworks can be applied to generate creative constructions in these domains ranging from the invention of new mathematical concepts to the creation of new harmonic cadences in music. These findings will be used to argue that computational approaches for creative constructions can also be applied to natural language phenomena.

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● Implementing creativity and flexibility in computational construction grammar

Paul VAN EECKE

 September 15, 9:15–10:00

This talk/discussion will focus on the computational side of creativity in construction grammar. Creative language use presupposes algorithms that can flexibly apply constructions. I will briefly introduce recent progress in the development of such algorithms for computational construction grammar (anti-unification and pro-unification), and discuss how they support creative language use. The presentation will include a live demonstration of a concrete implementation of these algorithms in Fluid Construction Grammar (FCG - <https://www.fcg-net.org>).

Paul VAN EECKE
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● There is no such thing in grammar as normal: Dimensions of constructional creativity

Alexander ZIEM

🕒 September 15, 10:00–10:45

At first sight, construction grammar seems to have not much, if anything, to offer to creativity research; vice versa, the concept of creativity apparently does not provide substantial support to better understand how constructions shape, or constitute, the system of a given language. Essentially, such a view is driven by the assumption that creative processes come in once constructions have been established. In this talk, I will argue that this view is wrong. One major aim is to show that the concept of creativity lies indeed at the heart of constructionist analyses. More specifically, the talk (a) introduces the concept of constructional creativity, (b) proposes a classification of (sub-)types of constructional creativity, and (c) explores various avenues as to how approach this phenomenon from a constructionist perspective.

Alexander ZIEM

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● Unwitting inventors: how innovations arise in language change

Hendrick DE SMET

🕒 September 15, 14:30–15:15

In language change, creativity resides in the ‘innovation’ stage of change. Innovations are deviations from the current linguistic norm that may go on to spread through a community and eventually become part of the new norm. Arguably, most innovations occur below the radar of linguistic awareness, both in terms of production and reception. In my talk I would like to highlight the mechanisms by which speakers unwittingly innovate. One type of innovation arises because speakers have only patchy representations of specific linguistic targets. Under such conditions, speakers make more or less informed guesses about an expression’s linguistic properties. Typical examples include folk etymology or the innovations seen in language acquisition. Such innovations are common but because they typically affect low-frequency items, they have little impact on the language. Another type of innovation arises because speakers have improved access to an expression’s mental representation. This will favour selection of the expression in usage, even in circumstances where its use deviates from the current norm. Access to an expression’s mental representation can be expected to improve when it is highly frequent (i.e. entrenched) or when it has occurred recently (i.e. primed). I present evidence from a number of case studies showing that speakers use expressions more creatively (or innovatively) when the expression is more strongly entrenched or when it has been primed.

Hendrick DE SMET

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Venue and contact

Conference room

Block “Waisenhaus”
Ostenstraße 25
Room WH-103

Room for coffee breaks

Block “Waisenhaus”
Ostenstraße 25
Room WH-112

University address

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How to get to Eichstätt



By car To get to Eichstätt from Ingolstadt, take the B13 towards the north-west. If you are coming from the north on the A9, leave the A9 at the junction ‘Altmühltal’ and follow the E21 for approximately 20 minutes to Eichstätt. If you are coming from the south on the A9, leave the A9 at the junction ‘Lenting’ and follow signs to Eichstätt.

By train Eichstätt is approximately halfway between Nuremberg and Munich on the Treuchtlingen–Ingolstadt line. Coming from either direction, change at ‘Eichstätt Bahnhof’, which is located approximately five kilometers outside of town, and take the single-carriage train to ‘Eichstätt Stadt’. Make sure your ticket is valid to ‘Eichstätt Stadt’. From here it is an approximately ten-minute walk to the University (in the direction of the town center).

By plane Munich airport lies to the south-east of Eichstätt and Ingolstadt. There is a bus from the airport to Ingolstadt (Ingolstadt Airport Express X109) that takes approximately an hour. It is also possible to reach Ingolstadt and Eichstätt from the airport by train, which takes approximately 1.5 to 2 hours. Nuremberg airport lies to the north of Eichstätt and Ingolstadt. From the airport, take the subway (U-Bahn) line 2 to the main train station (‘Nürnberg Hauptbahnhof’) which takes 12 minutes; from there take the regional train (RB) to Eichstätt, or the ICE train or regional express train (RE) to Ingolstadt.

Parking

- P1 Universitätsallee – free; walking distance to conference building c. 10 mins.
- P2 Volksfestplatz – free; walking distance to conference building c. 15 mins.



Map: © Google

Lunch and dinner venues

All restaurants are in walking distance from the university.

Lunches (14/15 Sept.)

Braugasthof Trompete
Ostenstr. 3
85072 Eichstätt

Dinner (14 Sept.)

Gaststätte „Zum Gutmann“
Am Graben 36
85072 Eichstätt

Dinner (15 Sept.)

Gasthof Krone
Domplatz 3
85072 Eichstätt



Map: © Google

WiFi

Eduroam is available everywhere on the campus.