

Colloquium/Seminar *Progress in Brain Language Research*

Forschungskolloquium – Progress in Brain Language Research

Dieses Seminar und Forschungskolloquium richtet sich an BA, MA und PhD-Studierende und an Forscher*innen mit einem Interesse an Sprache und den der Sprache zugrunde liegenden Mechanismen. Thematisch stehen die Bedeutung sprachlicher Einheiten und ihr Gebrauch in der Kommunikation im Mittelpunkt, wobei ein besonderes Augenmerk den Gehirnmechanismen von Sprache und Kommunikation gilt. Der Kurs hat vier Komponenten:

1. BA und MA-Kandidat*innen stellen erste Ideen, Arbeitspläne oder Resultate ihrer wissenschaftlichen Arbeit vor und lassen diese diskutieren,
2. Forscher*innen an der FU Berlin, insbesondere aus dem Labor für Gehirn- und Sprachforschung, stellen ihre laufenden Projekte und neue Resultate vor, die vom Plenum besprochen werden,
3. Richtungsweisende neuere Publikationen werden zusammengefasst und diskutiert,
4. Gastredner*innen aus dem In- und Ausland halten Vorträge zu sprach- und kognitionswissenschaftlichen Themen, wobei auch hier die Sprachmechanismen im menschlichen Gehirn im Vordergrund stehen.

Das vom Europäischen Forschungsrat geförderte und am Arbeitsbereich „Neurowissenschaft der Sprache, Semantik und Pragmatik“ durchgeführte Advanced-Grant-Projekt „Material Constraints Enabling Human Cognition“ oder „MatCo“ bildet einen Schwerpunkt im Kolloquiumsprogramm. Ergebnisse aus diesem Projekt werden regelmäßig vorgestellt und diskutiert.

Präsentationen und Diskussionsbeiträge auf Deutsch sind immer möglich und willkommen. Unser Team besteht allerdings aus internationalen Forscher*innen, was bei bestimmten Themen die Kommunikation auf Englisch notwendig macht. Wir bitten deshalb um Verständnis, dass die Vorträge in der Regel auf Englisch durchgeführt werden.

Studierende, die an einer Teilnahme interessiert sind, sollten sich bitte bei Verena.Arndt@fu-berlin.de vorab anmelden.

This seminar is for BA, MA and PhD students and for researchers interested in language science. The course will focus on reviewing and discussing recent progress in the cognitive neuroscience of language and in the fields of semantics and pragmatics. The seminar has four main strands:

1. BA and MA candidates working in the field of semantics, pragmatics or brain language research will present their work plans and first results,
2. Researchers at the FU Berlin's Brain Language Laboratory will present their ongoing work and explain their recent findings or summarize their recent publications,
3. Recently published remarkable research articles in the fields of brain language research, semantics and pragmatics will be reviewed by the participants to highlight the progress in the field,
4. National and international expert speakers will present their research in cognitive neuroscience of language and linguistics.

Colloquium/Seminar

16790 Progress in Brain Language Research

Prof. Dr. Rosario Tomasello

2 SWS, Seminar/Colloquium, Sommersemester 2026

Zeit/Time: Mi/Wed 16-18 h

Ort/Location: FU Berlin, Habelschwerdter Allee 45, room K31/102

There will be a focus on research related to the ongoing ERC Advanced Grant Project *Material Constraints Enabling Human Cognition (MatCo)*, where we are trying to specify the mechanistic neuronal circuits underlying human language use. Ongoing research from a range of other current research endeavours will also be featured.

Most presentations will be given in English, but presentations or discussion contributions in German are welcome too.

Students and researchers who are interested in participating in this colloquium are kindly requested to contact Verena.Arndt@fu-berlin.de.

To get an impression of our recent research, please take a look at the following publication:

Pulvermüller, F. (2023). Neurobiological Mechanisms for Language, Symbols and Concepts: Clues From Brain-constrained Deep Neural Networks. *Progress in Neurobiology*, 230, 102511. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.pneurobio.2023.102511>

Technicalities

The course is part of the teaching offered by the Freie Universität's FB Philosophy and Humanities and by the Berlin School of Mind and Brain at the Humboldt Universität. It is open to interested students from all departments. It will be chaired by Friedemann Pulvermüller under the admin support of Verena Arndt.

To obtain a certificate of attendance, it is necessary to

- attend most of the sessions (maximum misses: three),
- pre- and reprocess the session content by reading the recommended key papers, and
- present a key paper, own research or a research plan addressing language related topics.

Contact and more information:

Verena Arndt (Sekretariat), online or rm JK 31/234, phone: +49 (0)30 838 58140, E-mail: verena.arndt@fu-berlin.de; Prof. Dr. Rosario Tomasello (Tomasello.r@fu-berlin.de); Tonja Scheidler, t.scheidler@fu-berlin.de (Teaching Assistant)

For more information and updates, please visit:

<http://www.brainlang.fu-berlin.de/teaching>

<http://www.geisteswissenschaften.fu-berlin.de/v/brainlang/teaching/index.html>

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Technical comments

Currently, most of the seminar sessions will be held at the Freie Universität 'in-presence'; however, for varying reasons, some sessions [may be held 'virtually' - as indicated by blue text below](#). We may start with a session on Webex (<https://fu-berlin.webex.com>). In preparation for virtual session participation, please install the free version of 'Cisco Webex Meetings' available from the FU website and make sure that you have communicated your email address to verena.arndt@fu-berlin.de! You can also download the free version of Webex for computers or the Webex app.

You can also partake in the **virtual sessions** by clicking the **link in the header above**.

Seminar Program

Time & location of sessions – unless otherwise indicated: **Wednesdays, 16:15 – 17:45 h, room K31/102 of the main building of the Freie Universität Berlin, Habelschwerdter Allee 45, 14195 Berlin.**

Sessions will be **virtual only (blue)** or in real life ('in person'). Real-life sessions may be broadcasted via WebEx, too

Webex link to the colloquium and lecture room:

<https://fu-berlin.webex.com/fu-berlin-en/j.php?MTID=m39aab094d8d5d7ff2230570c9aea2c9d>

Meeting number (access code): 2784 682 1006

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22.04. Introduction, Seminar Planning

Planning of the colloquium program

PhD defence practice talk: Maxime Carriere

The role of human-specific connectivity and the motor cortex in language and symbolic processing: Evidence from Brain-Constrained Neural Networks

28.04 EEG Lab Visit + Poster Presentation

Linguistic students from Radboud University in Nijmegen visiting the Brain Language Laboratory (Maria den Hartog, MSc | PhD Candidate)

10:15 - 11:15 EEG demonstration with Milena Osterloh

11:30 - 12:00 MatCo ERC project - Computational approaches to language with Fynn Dobler

12:15 - 12:45 Aphasia Therapy and Intensive language action therapy (ILAT) with Johanna Knechtges

29.04. PhD defence, Tally Miller (Seminarraum 004, Fabeckstr. 35, 14195 Berlin, Start 16:30 PM)

Enhanced Neuronal Distinction: How language reorganizes perceptual representations

06.05. Research talk: NO Colloquium

07.05 PhD defence, Maxime Carriere (Seminarraum 2.2058, Fabeckstr. 23/25, 14195 Berlin, Start 10:15 AM)

The role of human-specific connectivity and the motor cortex in language and symbolic processing: Evidence from Brain-Constrained Neural Networks

13.05. Research talk: Dr Caterina Villani, Freie Universität Berlin & Bologna University

Abstractness and Specificity in Dialogue

20.05. Invited speaker: Dr Martin Maier, Humboldt Universität

Semantic and linguistic influences on visual mental imagery

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27.05. Research talk, Anna Thekla Jäger & Fynn Dobler

fMRI Analysis of Bravoc Data: ROI-Based and Representational Similarity Approaches
(MatCo Project results)

03.06. MA projects:

Lorenzo Stroppa (Berlin School of Mind and Brain)

Neurocomputational modeling of concrete and abstract concept development in an embodied cognition framework

Nikos Antoniadis (Potsdam University, TBC?)

Investigating the influence of temporal experience on semantic grounding in Brain-Constrained Neural Networks

10.06. Invited speaker: Prof. Dr Fritz Günther, Humboldt Universität

Making meaning with new words: Experimental and computational perspectives

17.06. No colloquium

24.06. Invited speaker: Dr Laura Ciaccio, University of Pavia

Vision and language dynamically shape semantic knowledge: An RSA approach integrating computational and EEG data

01.07. Research talk:

08.07. Invited speaker: Dr Bálint Forgács, Eötvös Loránd University (ELTE), Budapest

TBC

15.07. Research talk

PhD defence practice talk: Fynn Dobler:

How words make meaning: concrete and abstract concept acquisition in a brain-constrained neural network

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PhD defence practice talk: Anna Thekla Jäger

Functional Markers of Neuroplasticity: From Motor Sequence Learning to Aphasia
Rehabilitation