

Prof Dr Dr Friedemann Pulvermüller & Prof. Dr. Gisela Klann-Delius  
 Freie Universität Berlin  
 WS 2013/14  
 Graduate Seminar, Embodied vs disembodied semantics  
 Compact course, 8.-10.1.2014, 10-20 h; room JK 33-conference room LoE (Habelschwerdter  
 Allee 45

### **Graduate Seminar, Embodied vs disembodied semantics**

#### ***Introduction***

This research seminar looks at recent progress in research on the cognitive and brain basis of meaning. Recent publications will be discussed to get an overview over the state of the so-called “embodiment debate”. Here are some of the questions to be addressed:

- Does semantics draw upon motor and sensory knowledge?
- How do we learn, process and represent concrete and abstract meaning?
- What is the “symbol grounding problem” and what does it tell us?
- Is meaning processed in modality specific or amodal areas of the brain?
- How do we acquire the meaning of emotion words and sentences?

The seminar will consist of student presentations and may include presentations of research projects.

#### ***Technicalities***

The course is part of the teaching offered by the Cluster of Excellence *Languages of Emotion*. It will be offered by Friedemann Pulvermüller together with Prof. Dr. Gisela Klann-Delius under the admin support of Sabina Mollenhauer, MA.

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 in embodiment debate

Presentations should last about 30’ and be supported by a powerpoint presentation and handouts to participants. If you are interested in presenting, please discuss your plan with FP directly (preferably during office hours, Wednesdays, 12-1pm, room JK 31/232).

To register for the lecture series, please put your name down on the signup sheet provided at the first session. We will be happy to discuss any questions you may have regarding this course, be it about formalities, your presentation or wider research interests. Please contact one of us:

Sabina Mollenhauer, MA

Admin, Brain Language Laboratory  
 Office: room JK 31/234

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