

## **Out of Action? – Re-evaluating Methodological Challenges in Embodied Semantics Research**

Julia Heine (FU Berlin)

Contrasting with disembodied theories of the mind, the Embodied Semantics Approach proposes that meaning inevitably needs to be grounded in action and perception. Over the last twenty years, an impressive body of evidence has been put forward in its favour. Particularly the seemingly highly reliable Action-Sentence Compatibility Effect (ACE), suggesting a congruency effect between an overt action and the action implied by a sentence, does now seem to be an agreed-upon fact of psycholinguistic research. Similarly, response time effects associated with important semantic psycholinguistic variables such as concreteness and valence have frequently been explained through the embodied grounding of semantic representations.

However, the ACE as a key finding of the Embodied Semantics Approach as well as valence and concreteness effects have encountered serious replication issues in recent years (e.g. Papesh, 2015; Morey et al., 2022; Kousta et al., 2009; Brysbaert et al., 2016). The experimental part of this talk therefore considers possible design-related explanations for the replication challenges associated with these behavioural paradigms. In addition, the theoretical part of this talk emphasises the need to overcome the sharp dichotomies between embodied and disembodied perspectives on cognition as well as Embodied and Associationist Accounts of semantics.

Are embodiment effects such as the Action-Sentence Compatibility Effect indeed out of action?