

In the meeting of the Syntax-semantics colloquium of IEAS,

Andy Lücking (Frankfurt a.M.)

will give a talk on

Quantifiers as referential expressions

(joint work with Jonathan Ginzburg)

When? 22.1.2018, 16.15-17.45

Where? IG 3.201

Abstract

An important motivation for Montague's work on quantification was to achieve uniformity with respect to predication across referential and quantificational subjects. This was attained by type raising all NPs to denote sets of sets. In this talk we argue for essentially the opposite move whereby all predication involves individuals or sets of individuals (for plurals). We argue that such an approach is essential if one is to capture a variety of fundamentally important phenomena involving anaphora, clarification interaction, and speech-gesture cross-references associated with the use of quantificational noun phrases in dialogue and to explicate several key recent psycholinguistic results on processing generalized quantifiers. The discussion is couched in a set-denotational framework for plural expressions. We argue that a quantifier basically hosts a triplet of sets – maxset, refset, compset – which suffices for spelling out the denotations of most, perhaps all natural language quantifiers (quantifiers of type $\langle 1,1 \rangle$, to be more precise) in terms of individuals and sets. We finally sketch a compositional grammar fragment that provides structured noun phrases of required types.

Everyone is cordially invited!

Manfred Sailer, Frank Richter, Gert Webelhuth

You will find an up-to-date program of our colloquium at:

<https://www.english-linguistics.de/oberseminar/oberseminar-wise-201718/>