**Seminar/Colloquium: *Progress in Brain Language Research***

This research seminar focuses on reviewing and discussing recent progress in the cognitive neuroscience of language. It has three main strands. 1) External speakers will set the stage for focused discussions. 2) In depth reviews of research publications will provide an insight into recent progress in specific research areas. 3) Students and researchers at the FU Berlin’s Brain Language Laboratory will present their own research plans and aspects of their ongoing research – for discussion and to open future research perspectives.

Hot topics that may form the seminar’s foci in the new semester include the neural manifestations of linguistic-pragmatic knowledge and processing, the current mirror neuron and embodied cognition debates, and recent progress in language therapy.

The colloquium is open to outside participants, but please register with Verena.Arndt@fu-berlin.de.

Recommended reading:

Pulvermüller, F., & Fadiga, L. (2016). Brain language mechanisms built on action and perception. In G. Hickok & S. L. Small (Eds.), Neurobiology of language (pp. 311-324). Amsterdam: Elsevier.

Pulvermüller, F., Mohr, B., & Taub, E. (2016). Constraint-induced aphasia therapy: A neuroscience-centered translational method. In G. Hickok & S. L. Small (Eds.), Neurobiology of language (pp. 1025-1034). Amsterdam: Elsevier.

***Technicalities***

The course is part of the teaching offered by the Freie Universität’s FB Philosophy and Humanities and by the *Graduate School of Mind and Brain*. It is open to interested students from all departments. It will be offered by Friedemann Pulvermüller together with Guglielmo Lucchese, MD, 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 in current brain language research or, alternatively, a detailed research plan or report of own research.

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 course, 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:

Friedemann Pulvermüller

Office: JK 31/232  
Office hour / Sprechstunde: Mi 12-13 Uhr

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For more information and updates, please visit:

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

http://www.brainlang.fu-berlin.de/talks

***Seminar Program***

Unless otherwise noted, the Seminar will be held from 18:15 – 19:45 h in room JK 31/122 of the main building of the Freie Universität Berlin, Habelschwerdterallee 45, 14195 Berlin.

**19.04. 15:30hst-16:15h, room JK 31/122: Seminarplanung/planning**

**16.30h, room JK 31/125: Invited Lecture, organized together with Dahlem Lectures in Linguistics**

Prof. Pia Knoeferle, HU Berlin

*Emotional facial priming of language comprehension across the lifespan*

**26.04, 16hct, lecture room JK 31/125: Invited Lecture, organized together with Dahlem Lectures in Linguistics**

Dr. Rachel Moseley, Bournemouth University

Sensorimotor semantics and 'disembodied' autism

**27.04, 16hct, Expert Discussion with Prof Risto Ilmoniemi, Aalto University, Helsinki**

Perspectives on mapping and influencing language processing using TMS and TMS-EEG

**03.05. 18.30h, Invited Lecture, organized together with the Mind and Brain Talks, Berlin School of Mind and Brain, Humboldt Universität zu Berlin, Luisenstraße 56, room 144**

Dr. Olaf Hauk, MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit, Cambridge, UK

*Can I have a quick word?*

**10.05. Research report**

Rosario Tomasello & Dr Cora Kim, BLL FUB: Basic gestures? Naming and Requesting speech acts

**17.05. Research report**

Dr Jeffrey Scott Hanna: Mismatch Negativity brain responses to particle verbs – a role of context, form frequency and/or mutual information? (preliminary title)

**24.05. Research report**

Dr Luigi Grisoni: Predictive semantic activation for disentangling complex sentence understanding.

**General Discussion**

Grant Application Strategies

**31.05. Research report and project planning**

Tally Miller: Language specificity of (tactile) perceptual facilitation

**Paper discussion**

Felix Dreyer:Ghio et al. 2016 on abstract semantics

**07.06. – no colloquium – ModelAct Conference in Rome**

**14.06. Research report**

Dr Radoslaw Martin Cichy, Alexander von Humboldt Scholar, Biological Psychology & Cognitive Neuroscience, FUB: Representational similarity analysis in the study of language and cognition (preliminary title)

**Mon 20.6., room JK 28/130, 16hct, Invited Lecture: Prof. Dr. Stefan Heim, Uniklinik RWTH Aachen**

Rauschen oder Signal? Die Bedeutung von kognitiven Profilen bei Sprachstörungen für Modellbildung, Hirnbildgebung, Diagnose und Therapie (in German)

**28.06., Research report**

Dr Luigi Grisoni, Shiva Motlagh, Prof Dr Bettina Mohr: Action semantic priming in Autism?: an MMN study

Irena Sophia Plank: Do you know the answer to my question?: Brain correlates of question types and prior knowledge (prelminary title)

**05.07. Research report**

Malte Schomers: Functional contributions of the motor cortex to understanding (preliminary title)

Dr Guglielmo Lucchese: Brain indexes of syntax and semantics elicited by the same word

**Mon 11.07., room JK 28/130, 16hct, Invited Lecture: Dr. Bettina Neininger, Singen**

Constraint-induced aphasia therapy - Methodik und Anwendung in der Praxis (in German)

**12.07. Research report**

Dr Benjamin Stahl: The Second Berlin ILAT Trial: How Does Training Intensity Contribute to Aphasia Neurorehabilitation?

**19.07. What’s next? Discussion of research strategy and new perspectives**

**Papers for discussion:**

Dignam, J. K., Rodriguez, A. D., & Copland, D. A. (2015). Evidence for Intensive Aphasia Therapy: Consideration of Theories From Neuroscience and Cognitive Psychology. [Review]. PM R. doi: 10.1016/j.pmrj.2015.06.010

Hauk, O., Pulvermüller, F., Ford, M., Marslen-Wilson, W. D., & Davis, M. H. (2009). Can I have a quick word? Early electrophysiological manifestations of psycholinguistic processes revealed by event-related regression analysis of the EEG. Biol Psychol, 80(1), 64-74.

Hickok, G. (2015). The interface theory of perception: the future of the science of the mind?. Psychon Bull Rev, 22(6), 1477-1479. doi: 10.3758/s13423-015-0930-4

Walker, G. M., & Hickok, G. (2015). Bridging computational approaches to speech production: The semantic-lexical-auditory-motor model (SLAM). Psychon Bull Rev. doi: 10.3758/s13423-015-0903-7

Kemmerer, D. (2015). Are the motor features of verb meanings represented in the precentral motor cortices? Yes, but within the context of a flexible, multilevel architecture for conceptual knowledge. Psychon Bull Rev, 22(4), 1068-1075. doi: 10.3758/s13423-014-0784-1

Kemmerer, D. (2016). Does the motor system contribute to the perception and understanding of actions? Reflections on Gregory Hickok’s The myth of mirror neurons: the real neuroscience of communication and cognition. Language and Cognition, in press, 1-26, and related papers.

Meinzer, M., Jahnigen, S., Copland, D. A., Darkow, R., Grittner, U., Avirame, K., . . . Floel, A. (2014). Transcranial direct current stimulation over multiple days improves learning and maintenance of a novel vocabulary. Cortex, 50, 137-147. doi: 10.1016/j.cortex.2013.07.013