E.1 COURSE

Understanding language: forty years into the garden path (C)


Aims: The famous garden path sentence the horse raced past the barn fell turns 40 years since it was published in the seminal paper “The Cognitive Basis of Linguistics Structures” by Thomas G. Bever, one of the founders of the field of language processing. Language is the focus of some of the major scientific issues in cognitive science, such as the interaction between associative habits and structured mental computations, or a productive rapport between innatist approaches and biological and functional approaches. This meeting brings together some of the most outstanding researchers in the field, to discuss current frontiers in our understanding of language within cognitive science, and to assess the progress made during these four decades of research in language processing.

Speakers: Gerry Altman, University of York
Robert Berwick, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Thomas G. Bever, University of Arizona
Ina Bornkessel-Schlesewsky, University of Marburg
Manuel Carreiras, Basque Center on Cognition Brain and Language
Gary Dell, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
Luciano Fadiga, Italian Institute of Technology-University of Ferrara
Charles Lin, Indiana University
Yosef Grodzinsky, McGill University
William Idsardi, University of Maryland
Sonia Kotz, Max Planck Institute for Brain and Cognitive Sciences
Maryellen C. MacDonald, University of Wisconsin-Madison
Jacques Mehler, SISSA-ISAS CNS, Trieste
Colin Phillips, University of Maryland
Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini, University of Arizona
Douglass Saddy, University of Reading
Edward P. Stabler, UCLA
Michael Tanenhaus, University of Rochester

In collaboration with Ministerio de Ciencia e Innovación.

Registration fees: before 31 May: 90 €. From 1 June: 108 €.

Academic validity: 40 hours.

Official language: English.

European activity
PROGRAMME

June 28th

9:00 h  Welcome and Presentation.

9:15 h  Introduction to the course. “On the Cognitive Basis of Linguistic Structures: Themes that have endured”
        MICHAEL TANENHAUS.
        University of Rochester.

Session 1.  THE CROSSLINGUISTIC BRAIN AND LANGUAGE
Chair: ITZIAR LAKA.
        University of the Basque Country. UPV/EHU.

10:00 h  “Languages in the infant brain”
        JACQUES MEHLER.
        SISSA-ISAS CNS. Trieste.

11:00 h  “Mechanisms of Agreement”
        MANUEL CARREIRAS.
        Basque Center on Brain, Cognition and Language.

12:00 h  Break

12:30 h  “Neurotypology: Modelling cross-linguistic similarities and differences in the neurocognition of language comprehension”
        INA BORNKESSEL-SCHLESEWSKY.
        University of Marburg.

13:30 h  “Changing perspectives on the functional role of some language regions in the brain”
        YOSEF GRODZINSKY.
        McGill University.

16:30 h  Round table, general discussion: “The Crosslinguistic Brain and Language”
        Theme discussant: DOUGLASS SADDY.
        University of Reading.
        Participants: MICHAEL TANENHAUS.
        University of Rochester
        JACQUES MEHLER.
        SISSA-ISAS CNS. Trieste.
        MANUEL CARREIRAS.
        Basque Center on Brain, Cognition and Language.
        YOSEF GRODZINSKY.
        McGill University.
June 29th

Session 2. THE EVOLUTION OF LANGUAGE AND LANGUAGE UNIVERSALS
Chair: PELLO SALABURU.
University of the Basque Country. UPV/EHU.

10:00 h  “Comprehension, production and linearization in a new evolutionary perspective”
MASSIMO PIATTELLI-PALMARINI.
University of Arizona.

11:00 h  “Three Models for the Description of Language Complexity”
ROBERT BERWICK.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

12:00 h  Break

12:30 h  “Measuring language universals in the brain”
DOUGLASS SADDY.
University of Reading.

13:30 h  “Where do Linguistic Universals come from?”
THOMAS G. BEVER.
University of Arizona.

16:30 h  Round table, general discusión: “The Evolution of Language and Language Universals”
Theme discussant: COLIN PHILLIPS.
University of Maryland.
Participants: MASSIMO PIATTELLI-PALMARINI.
University of Arizona.
ROBERT BERWICK.
Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
DOUGLASS SADDY.
University of Reading.
THOMAS G. BEVER.
University of Arizona.
June 30th

Session 3. THE RELATIONS BETWEEN LANGUAGE PRODUCTION AND PERCEPTION
Chair: JOSÉ MANUEL IGOA.
Universidad Autónoma de Madrid.

9:00 h “The Production Basis of Language Comprehension: Evidence from Relative Clauses”
MARYELLEN C. MACDONALD.
University of Wisconsin-Madison.

10:00 h “Implicit learning in the language production system is revealed in speech errors”
GARY DELL.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

11:00 h “From Action to Language: Evidence and Speculations”
LUCIANO FADIGA.
Italian Institute of Technology. University of Ferrara.

12.00 h Break

12:30 h “Statistical generalizations in language behaviors”
WILLIAM IDSARDI.
University of Maryland.

13:30 h “Down the head-final garden path: Understanding the processing asymmetries of head-final relative clauses”
CHARLES LIN.
Indiana University.

16:30 h Round table, general discusión: “The Relations between Language Production and Perception”
Theme discussant: THOMAS G. BEVER.
University of Arizona.
Participants: MARYELLEN C. MACDONALD.
University of Wisconsin-Madison.
GARY DELL.
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.
LUCIANO FADIGA.
Italian Institute of Technology. University of Ferrara.
SONIA KOTZ.
Max Planck Institute for Brain and Cognitive Sciences.
CHARLES LIN.
Indiana University.
July 1st

Session 4. **THE GARDEN PATH TODAY – COMPREHENSION MODE**

Chair: **MONTSERRAT SANZ.**
*Kobe University of Foreign Studies. Japan.*

9:00 h  “Syntactic ambiguities: from linguistic structure to brain correlates”
**SONIA KOTZ.**
*Max Planck Institute for Brain and Cognitive Sciences.*

10:00 h  “On the mechanisms underlying real-time language comprehension”
**MICHAEL TANENHAUS.**
*University of Rochester.*

11:00 h  “Anticipating the garden path: the horse raced past the barn ate the cake”
**GERRY ALTMANN.**
*University of York.*

12:00 h  Break

12:30 h  “Syntax, semantics and pragmatics in incremental interpretation”
**EDWARD P. STABLER.**
*UCLA.*

13:30 h  “Grammatical Illusions: Where you see them, where you don’t”
**COLIN PHILLIPS.**
*University of Maryland.*

16:30 h  Round table, general discusión: “The Garden Path Today - Comprehension Models”
Theme discussant: **YOSEF GRODZINSKY.**
*McGill University.*
**SONIA KOTZ.**
*Max Planck Institute for Brain and Cognitive Sciences.*
**MICHAEL TANENHAUS.**
*University of Rochester.*
**GERRY ALTMANN.**
*University of York.*
**WILLIAM IDSARDI.**
*University of Maryland.*
**COLIN PHILLIPS.**
*University of Maryland.*

17:30 h  Conclusions and predictions for future research
**THOMAS G. BEVER.**
*University of Arizona.*
**MASSIMO PIATTELLI-PALMARINI.**
*University of Arizona.*