



Der Sonderforschungsbereich 991 “Die Struktur von Repräsentationen in Sprache, Kognition und Wissenschaft“ lädt herzlich ein zum Vortrag von

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Naming as a model for a general semantics

While the focus in formal semantics is (quite rightly) on how to compose the meaning of the whole given the meanings of the parts and how they are combined, an opposite cross-current concerns the idiosyncratic nature of combined meanings, where multiword phrases have a meaning that is not entirely predictable from the parts (Fillmore et al 1988; Goldberg 2006; Sag et al 2002; Bolinger 1968). Idioms form one end of the continuum (Wasow et al 1994), and purely and obviously compositional instances form the opposite end. How are we to understand the quite heavily populated middle territory? In this talk I review some options and consider the possibility that naming actually forms the model for how to understand the nature of the meanings (Soames 2002; Coates 2006). If this conjecture is on the right track, it entails reconfiguring some of our presumptions about the product of semantic composition in many instances, namely, it's not the meaning of the expression itself.

Studierende und andere Interessierte sind herzlich willkommen.