



22 - 26 August 2011

Harvard-Australia Workshop on: Language, Learning and Logic

Date: 22nd to 26th August 2011

Location: MGSM Conference Centre, Macquarie University

Overview

This workshop brings together an interdisciplinary group of national and international researchers to focus on fundamental research questions lying at the intersection of language, logic and learning. Philosophers and logicians study knowledge and how it can be represented and manipulated, while linguists study how meanings are computed and expressed in human languages. Psychologists and, increasingly, computer scientists provide different viewpoints on how knowledge is represented and how it is acquired. Traditionally these issues have been researched in different corridors: logic has been studied by philosophers in the school of humanities, language has been studied by linguists in the social sciences, and learning has been studied by researchers from fields as disparate as psychology and computer science. The goal of this workshop is to provide an opportunity for renewed interdisciplinary interaction.

Poster sessions

Poster sessions are an integral part of this workshop. They will provide a unique opportunity for young researchers to present their work and to get feedback from a group of eminent international scholars.

Please note: Poster submissions have now closed.

Workshop registration

The Harvard-Australia Workshop on Language, Learning and Logic is open to the general academic community. Registration is free but as space is limited please register early to guarantee your participation. Priority will be given to students and post-docs presenting in the poster sessions, otherwise it's first in, best dressed. Please send your name and affiliation to HAW2011@mq.edu.au by 25th July.

Invited Speakers include

in alphabetical order

Dr Avery Andrews

(Senior Lecturer, Australian National University Linguistics)

Avery's recent work has concentrated on linguistic aspects of the mapping between syntactic structure and logical form.

Dr Ivano Caponigro

(Assistant Professor, University of California, San Diego Linguistics)

Ivano is a theoretical linguist who studies how different languages assemble words to form sentences and how these sentences are used to convey meaning.

Dr Stephen Crain

(Professor, Macquarie University Linguistics)

Stephen directs the ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders and is known for his work on the acquisition of semantics in child English and in child Mandarin.

Dr Max Cresswell

(Professor, Victoria University Philosophy)

Max is New Zealand's most distinguished logician, and is a founding figure in formal semantics and modal logic.

Dr Katherine Demuth

(Professor, Macquarie University Linguistics)

Katherine is a linguist who is internationally recognized for her work on children's acquisition of the phonology and morphology of their first languages. Her work bridges linguistics and developmental psychology.

Dr Michael Frank

(Assistant Professor, Stanford University Psychology)

Michael is well-known for his theoretical, computational and experimental investigation into nature of learning in language and cognition.

Dr Maria Teresa Guasti

(Professor, University of Milan-Bicocca Psychology)

Teresa is well-known in the field of language acquisition for her cross-linguistics investigations of children's knowledge of phonology, syntax and semantics. She has published widely, and her MIT Press book 'Language Acquisition: The Growth of Grammar' is now a standard text.

Dr Alan Hajek

(Professor, Australian National University Philosophy)

Alan is a Fellow of Australian Academy of Humanities, is a world-renowned authority on the foundations of probability and decision theory.

Dr C.-T. James Huang

(Professor, Harvard University Linguistics)

James is a world-renowned theoretical linguist, who has published several books and numerous articles in syntactic theory, on the syntax-semantics interface, and on Chinese linguistics. He is the founding editor of the Journal of East Asian Linguistics.

Dr Frank Jackson

(Professor, Princeton and Australian National University Philosophy)

Frank is Australia's most distinguished philosopher, and has contributed seminal research on conditionals and other forms of linguistic and cognitive representations.

Dr Mark Johnson

(Professor, Macquarie University Computing)

Mark is known for his work on computational models of language acquisition and comprehension, especially the acquisition of the lexicon and syntactic parsing. His work bridges computer science and linguistics.

Dr Drew Khlentzos

(Associate Professor, University of New England Psychology)

Drew has made contributions to research in philosophy of logic and language and to broader debates in cognitive science.

Terje Lohndal

(PhD Student, University of Maryland Linguistics)

Terje is interested in theoretical linguistics and semantics, the role of logic in the language faculty and relating linguistics theory to problems of language acquisition. He already has a considerable list of refereed journal articles, book chapters and conference talks to his name.

Dr Amy Perfors

(Lecturer, University of Adelaide Psychology)

Amy is interested in studying language acquisition from a Bayesian learning perspective, and is interested in the relationship between language acquisition and more general issues involving human cognition.

Dr Jonathan Schaffer

(Professor, Australian National University Philosophy)

Jonathan is an Australian Future Fellow, and leads research on contrastive theories of knowledge and causation and the language used to express these notions.

Dr Stuart Shieber

(Professor, Harvard University Computer Science)

Stuart is a computational linguist who is world renowned for his work on language comprehension, including syntactic parsing and the mapping to logical form.

Dr Mike Smithson

(Professor, Australian National University Psychology)

Mike is at the forefront of research into the psychology of decision-making and the analysis of risk and uncertainty.

Dr Jesse Snedeker

(John L. Loeb Associate Professor, Harvard University Psychology)

Jesse is internationally known for her innovative experimental research on the semantics/pragmatics interface in child language, including the acquisition of number words, and scalar implicatures.

Dr Edward Stabler

(Professor, University of California, Los Angeles Linguistics)

Edward is well-known for his ground-breaking work exploring the mathematical and computational consequences of modern syntactic theory.

Dr Mark Steedman

(Professor, University of Edinburgh Informatics)

Mark is a Professor of Cognitive Science in the School of Informatics, working in Computational Linguistics, Artificial Intelligence, and Cognitive Science.

Dr Rosalind Thornton

(Associate Professor, Macquarie University Linguistics)

Rosalind is an experimental linguist who studies the acquisition of syntax. She is an expert in experimental design, and has published papers on acquisition, spanning a broad range of linguistic structures, including anaphora and quantification.



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Harvard-Australia Workshop schedule

Venue: MGSM Conference Centre

Invited talks

22, 23, 25 and 26 August

Poster presentations

23 and 25 August (afternoons)

KIT-Macquarie Brain Research Laboratory tour

24 August (morning)

(free time in the afternoon)

Conference Organisers:

Professor Gennaro Chierchia (Harvard University)

Professor Stephen Crain (Macquarie University)

Professor C.-T. James Huang (Harvard University)

Associate Professor Drew Khlentzos (University of New England)

Professor Mark Johnson (Macquarie University)

Contact:

Professor Mark Johnson

Email: mark.johnson@mq.edu.au

Sponsors:

Macquarie University Centre for Language Sciences

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