Contemporary Developments in Verbal and Nonverbal Communication.

IRTG Seminar (WS 2010/11)

Instructors

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Dates

- Preliminary discussion of the contents of the seminar and dissemination of topics for presentations of PhD students:
  - Monday, 17 January 2011, 14:00h
- Workshop:
  - Friday, 18 February 2011, 9-12h and 13-16h
  - Saturday, 19 February 2011, 10-15h

Nonverbal Processing (TG)

Although the scope of my own research is on gesture processing, I tried to widen the scope of the seminar. First I am going to give an introduction in the theme. Then we are going to critically explore in how far the mirror-neuron system (if it exists in humans) can help to understand how non-verbal communication works. Next we are going to discuss some ideas (partly based on the mirror neuron system) on language evolution and ask ourselves the question whether language came from gestures. Then we will end the morning session and explore issues related to the motor system (action) and language and critically review in how far language understanding depends on the motor system.

In the afternoon I will start off by telling you about the latest and unpublished research done in our lab. Then we are going to explore how babies start to communicate and what the prerequisites of this in a nonverbal communication is. Next we will discuss some experiments on this issue which involve children after which we will end the first part of our seminar with an exploration how gestures can help in learning.

I have supplied you with several papers related to the themes we are going to discuss. These papers need to be seen as a personal selection and not as literature you need to discuss. I would actually like to motivate you to find more/other papers and to extend the stuff I proposed. I also would like to invite you to discuss your talks with me before we have the seminar. Two weeks in advance would be a good choice for that. Please contact me via Email (Gunter@cbs.mpg.de) and I will make an appointment with you for a fon-call.
SCHEDULE

Friday
09.00 - 09.45  Introduction to gesture processing (TG)
10.00 - 11.00  Mirror neurons and language
11.00 – 12.00  Language evolution: Did language come from gestures?
13.00 – 14.00  Action and language
14.00 – 14.45  State of the art in the neuroscience of gesture (TG)
15.00 – 16.00  Nonverbal communication: early pointing.
16.00 – 17.00  Nonverbal communication in children.

Saturday
10.00 – 11.00  The role of gestures in learning
11.00 - 11.45    Cortical networks for language processing (AM)
12.00-13.00:   Multiple facets of language comprehension
14.00-15.00:    Language and working memory
15.00 -              General discussion

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Mirror Neurons and Language

Language Evolution


### Action and Language


### Early pointing


### Nonverbal communication in children


Gestures and learning


Multiple facets of language comprehension


Language and working memory

