



FR 4.3 Anglistik, Amerikanistik und Anglophone Kulturen,  
Zentrum für Lehrerbildung (ZfL),  
Landesinstitut für Pädagogik und Medien (LPM) &  
Institut für Lehrerfort- und -weiterbildung (ILF) present

## 4th Teachers' Day: Grammar Rules?

### Talk Scott Thornbury

Big words, small grammar

What happened to the lexical approach? Apart from stimulating interest in collocation and the role of lexical chunks as a short-cut to fluency, what has the lexical approach left us with? I will attempt to answer this question by first arguing that there have been at least two lexical approaches, each equally plausible, but that – so far – no serious attempt has been made to combine their strengths into a workable instructional programme.

I will show how both the frequency data and the collocational information now available to us thanks to corpus linguistics, combined with insights from complexity theory and emergentism, suggest the direction that such a programme might take, and I will illustrate my argument using original materials. As a result, I hope to demonstrate T.S. Eliot's claim that: "Out of the slimy mud of words... there spring the perfect order of speech, and the beauty of incantation".