

The chair of English linguistics (Prof. Gergel)  
invites you to the following guest lecture:

# *It*-Clefts in English: Syntax, Focus, Exhaustivity

**PD Dr. Jutta Hartmann**  
(IDS, Mannheim)

**Tuesday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2016**  
**1:00 pm**  
**Campus B3 1, Hörsaal III**

In this talk, I present recent research on the syntax and focus analysis of *it*-cleft sentences. The main claims that I will present in this talk are: (i) Clefts are a subclass of specificational copular clauses and the syntax of cleft sentences is closely linked to their focus properties. (ii) *It*-clefts in English express contrasting focus (to be defined in the talk); (iii) Exhaustivity effects derive from the contrasting focus interpretation; (iv) As the contrasting focus interpretation depends on the selection (and accommodation) of alternatives in context, we find variation in the 'strength' of exhaustivity.

The first part of the talk will outline the general analysis and the claims (i) and (ii). The second part concentrates on experimental work concerning exhaustivity effects in *it*-clefts as compared to *only*-sentences and regular SVO sentences.