



UNIVERSITÉ DE FRIBOURG
UNIVERSITÄT FREIBURG

CRUS Doctoral Programme - Language & Cognition

Module: Linguistic Relativity – New Takes

WHAT

Linguistic Relativity – New Takes

The so-called Sapir-Whorf hypothesis is one of the most prominent ideas in linguistics and remains a much-debated, as well as a defining notion at the interface between language and cognition. While the more radical approaches that either adopt a strict deterministic view or rule out entirely the possibility of a Whorfian effect have lost most of their supporters, the very nature of linguistic relativity remains the subject of heated discussions across several linguistic disciplines (Lucy 1992, Gumperz & Levinson 1996, Boroditsky et al. 2002, Carroll et al. 2012, Everett 2013).

In this theoretical workshop, you will be presented with the assumptions and most recent evidence at the very heart of on-going research on and about linguistic relativity. Each of our invited speakers will provide participants with state-of-the-art insights from different neighbouring fields that address the issue from a different perspective. In doing so we will look at cross-linguistic evidence from SLA, we will consider ERP data from bilingual populations and adopt a wider interdisciplinary approach reminiscent of the kind of anthropological research that originally gave birth to the hypothesis.

This workshop is designed as an interactive platform where each invited speaker will present state-of-the-art findings on these questions that will then be used in connection with other material to assess the various arguments and standpoints as part of critical discussions with the speakers.

WHO

Prof. Panos Athanasopoulos
Lancaster University, UK

Prof. Raphaël Berthele
Université de Fribourg, CH

Prof. Martin Thiering
Technische Universität Berlin, D

Prof. Guillaume Thierry
Bangor University, UK

WHEN

The module will take place on Thursday-Friday **18-19 February** 2016.

WHERE

This module is offered at the University of Fribourg and hosted by the research team in Multilingualism.

Registration

15 doctoral students can take part in this module. The registration deadline is on **10 February 2016**. The programme reimburses travel expenses as well as meals and a fixed accommodation rate of 90CHF/day for participants affiliated with a Swiss university.

This workshop can be used towards obtaining course credits.

In order to register, doctoral students should contact the coordinator at heidi.aro@unifr.ch.

Contact

All practical and administrative questions should be addressed to the programme coordinator, Mrs Heidi Aro, at heidi.aro@unifr.ch

More information (incl. schedule) can be found here: lettres.unifr.ch/fr/langues-litteratures/anglais/DocProg.html

Organisation

The CRUS doctoral workshop *Language & Cognition* is organised by the University of Fribourg with the collaboration of the University of Geneva and the University of Neuchâtel.

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Module: Linguistic Relativity – New Takes

Thursday 18 February 2016, room

14.15h-14h30	R. Berthele / D. Maillat	Welcome and introduction
14h30-15h30	P. Athanasopoulos	Linguistic relativity and SLA
15h30-16h	Coffee Break	
16h-17h30	P. Athanasopoulos & All	Discussion – round table: <i>Thierry vs. Pullum, selected papers I</i>
19h	Dinner	

Friday, 19 February 2016, room

9h15-10h15	M. Thiering	Interdisciplinary take on linguistic relativity
10h15-10h45	Coffee Break	
10h30-12h00	M. Thiering & All	Discussion – round table: <i>selected papers II</i>
12h-13h00	Lunch	
Friday, 19 February 2016, room		
13h15-14h15	G. Thierry	Psycholinguistic perspective on linguistic relativity: the insights from ERP
14h15-15h	G. Thierry & All	Discussion – round table: <i>selected papers III</i>
15h-15h30	Coffee Break	
15h30-16h30	R. Berthele & All	Concluding discussion and final thoughts: <i>Whorfianism and current debates on linguistic diversity</i>
Farewell		