OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

Kenneth Holmqvist and Roger Johansson appeared in the Radio program Vetandets Värld, P1, and talked about eye movements during mental imagery: [Link](http://sverigesradio.se/sida/artikel.aspx?programid=412&artikel=4751491)

Jana Holsanova held a popular lecture about her research in CCL for teachers and librarians, invited by Regionbibliotek Stockholm.

NEXT ADVISORY BOARD VISIT

Make a note in your calendars: On **April 10-11 2012** we have the pleasure to welcome the CCL **Scientific Advisory Board**. For those of you who are new members, the SAB is composed by Jean-Pierre Changeux, Jean Decety, Susan Goldin-Meadow, Paul Verschure, and, replacing Uta Frith, Teija Kujala. Learn more about our SAB from the links on the [CCL website](#).

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS: SYMPOSIUM ON QUANTITATIVE SEMANTICS

On November 25, 2011, there will be a symposium on Quantitative Semantics at the Department of Psychology. The deadline for submission of a 150 word abstract is November 11. The abstracts should be emailed to Sverker Sikström:

Sverker.Sikstrom@psychology.lu.se.

CCL THEMES

At our conference in March this year, we decided to create themes mirroring the cooperation potential between subprojects. A clarification may be called for, since a few themes have merged. In order to refresh our memories please find below a list of the themes and the person(s) in charge.

**Alignment & Information Chunking in Language Production** - Jana Holsanova and Victoria Johansson

Cerebellum – Dan Anders Jirenhed, Germund Hesslow

Gesture – Agneta Gulz, Magnus Haake and Marianne Gullberg

Memory and cognitive control – Mikael Johansson, Magnus Lindgren

Quantitative Semantics – Sverker Sikström, Kristina Hansson

Simulation – Magnus Johnsson, Christian Balkenius

Speaking in time – Susanne Schötz, Johan Frid

We have asked our theme leaders to give us a short presentation of their work so far. Not all themes are active yet, hence some of them will be presented in coming newsletters.

**Alignment & Information Chunking in Language Production**

This theme has both methodological and theoretical aims. In language production (spoken & written, dialogical & monological), information flow is segmented into smaller information chunks or functional units. What are these functional units/ information units semantically based on? What size do they have? How are they marked and delimited? What constitutes their borders (turn taking, long pauses, hesitations, editing activities)? How do we categorize and code them in our datasets? We are going to discuss different solutions to "chunking", coding and analyzing material, exchange experiences and methods, problems
and solutions. The first meeting on December 13th at 15:00 will concern "Comparing the 'flow' of speech and writing".

**Cerebellum**

The cerebellum theme is based on the Pavlovian learning paradigm and involves two different lines of research. One is the study of nerve cells in the cerebellum which change their responsiveness during learning of a conditioned blink. We are presently trying to figure out how the learned responses (a pause in firing in the Purkinje cell, which is translated into a blink at the behavioural level) are timed. The cellular group meets almost daily for discussions. In a second research line, in collaboration with Psychology and Logopedics, we try to apply the cellular knowledge to problems of speech and language disabilities. The cerebellum has been implicated in these conditions and we use human eyeblink conditioning to investigate afflicted children. We also use finger tapping as a technique for investigating timing ability. Informal discussions between the participants in these two lines have been numerous. We plan to have a minisymposium in November together with Guy Madison from Umeå on finger tapping as a methodology.

**Gesture**

The theme group **Gesture** decided to focus on 'comprehension of gesture' (rather than 'production of gesture'). The first meeting was a journal club around a meta-study on the role(s) of gesture. It was a good ground for starting out the discussions in a nicely composed group with a number of veritable 'gesture-specialists' together with a number of participants with a keen interest in gesture but with other kinds of expertise.


**Quantitative Semantics**

The two themes "Concepts and semantics" and "SELMA", have merged into one, "**Quantitative semantics**". We had a first meeting on September 5th. Researchers from different disciplines with an interest in quantifying semantics attended, presenting their approach to the topic. A second meeting was held on October 21, a journal club meeting where we discussed: Dodds, P., Harris, K., Kloumann, I., Bliss, C. & Danforth, C. (2011). “Temporal patterns of happiness and information in a global social network: Hedonometrics and Twitter.” The group also held a CCL seminar on October 18, reporting on the progress with working with LSA to quantify semantics in children’s narratives. Further, a symposium on Quantitative semantics will be held on November 25.

**Speaking in Time**

In the CCL theme **Speaking in Time**, we are looking for ways to combine timing in speech (articulation, acoustics & perception) with one (or several) of the following:

- Language acquisition
- Gestures and articulation and acoustics (and the brain)
- Timing differences in dialects
- Speaker’s/Singer’s comfort (and timing in music)
- What happens in the brain when you speak or sing in a certain way?
- Animal vocalisations and human-animal communication

On 4 Oct., we organised an open meeting to
discuss possible cross-fertilisations within and outside CCL, where we discussed a number of interesting potential multi-disciplinary collaborations. Additional meetings with people from technical acoustics and with writing process researchers also led to several ideas for pilot studies and potential new projects. These meetings will be followed up with more specialized meetings for the various collaboration sub themes.

MENTOR PUB

Mentors and mentees in the CCL mentor program met on October 4th at the Pufendorf Institute. All participants seem to find the program meaningful and are satisfied with the process so far. A final meeting summing up the experiences from the program will be held early June 2012 at the Pufendorf Institute.

MEMBERSHIPS, PARTNERSHIPS, AND COLLABORATIONS

Birgitta Sahlén is from september 2011 an International Advisory Board Member in 'Language and cognition - perspectives from impairment' a research-program financed by The Danish Council for Independent Research, Humanities.

CCL PARTICIPATION IN WORKSHOPS AND CONFERENCES

Oct. 18-19, 2011 Marianne Gullberg gave two plenary lectures at the conference 'Gesture: Its role in communication, language development and cognition', held at the University of Western Cape, South Africa. The talks are entitled Gestures as solutions to communicative problems in multilingual interaction and What gestures reveal about what language learners mean.

INVITED TALKS

Sept. 23, 2011 Marianne Gullberg gave an invited talk at the University of Bergen, Norway, entitled Language learning in 7 minutes: Behavioural and neurological evidence for implicit learning in adults after minimal exposure to an unknown language.


PUBLICATIONS