

Workshop description

The goal of Work Package 5 of the *Language in Interaction Consortium* (<http://www.languageininteraction.nl>) is to better understand the cognitive, cultural, and biological underpinnings of linguistic universality and diversity. We hope to achieve this goal by studying language diversity at the level of individuals, languages, and species. Though the kind of variation under study may differ, many fundamental research questions are shared across researchers of language diversity. For instance, how do language users manage diversity? What determines the linguistic diversity between individual language users? What are the genetic foundations of vocal learning?

In an attempt to bring together the different research questions and methodologies of the different members of the work package, we want to organize a two-day workshop. Purpose of the workshop:

- (1) find the common ground within WP5 that connects the study of diversity at the different levels (e.g., shared research questions, mutual interests, methodology that can be adopted from different research fields) through interdisciplinary interaction.
- (2) give the PhDs involved in WP5 a head start in their projects by providing them with an overview of the current state-of-affairs in the study of language diversity, with helpful feedback regarding the design of their project from researchers spanning a range of different backgrounds, and with an opportunity for interdisciplinary interaction.

We have invited four international speakers to talk about their expertise in studying language diversity at the level of individuals, languages, and/or species, namely:

- **Constance Scharff** (Freie Universitaet, Berlin)
- **Franck Ramus** (CNRS, Paris)
- **Frederike Luepke** (University of London)
- **Jonathan Peelle** (Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, USA)

In addition, four 'local' speakers will represent the research that is taking place within our own PI groups. In this way, we hope to foster interaction between 'familiar' and 'unfamiliar' research:

- **Pralle Kriengwatana** (Leiden University)
- **Clyde Francks** (MPI)
- **Mark Dingemanse** (MPI)
- **Hans Rutger Bosker** (MPI)

In order to streamline the presentations and discussions, each speaker will be asked to present their view on the following three topics:

- *To what extent is it possible to establish links between the different levels of language diversity? In other words, how can the study of diversity at one level inform the study of diversity at another level?*
- *What new techniques are available or required to study diversity at these three levels?*
- *Are there levels of diversity that are not included in this WP that should not be ignored?*

Finally, two PhD students will present an overview of their projects on language diversity - starting this September as part of WP5:

- **Luis Miguel Rojas-Berscia** (RU)
- **Fabian Heim** (Freie Universitaet, Berlin)

PROGRAMME

Thursday 30 October 2014	
13:00	COFFEE / TEA
13:20	<i>Welcome</i>
13:30	Jonathan Peelle
14:15	Hans Rutger Bosker
15:00	BREAK
15:30	Frederike Luepke
16:15	Mark Dingemanse
17:00	Luis Miguel Rojas-Berscia
17:15	END OF FIRST DAY
Friday 31 October 2014	
8:30	Franck Ramus
9:15	Clyde Francks
10:00	BREAK
10:30	Constance Scharff
11:15	Pralle Kriengwatana
12:00	Fabian Heim
12:15	<i>Final discussion</i>
13:00	LUNCH
14:00	END OF WORKSHOP

REGISTRATION

Name

Affiliation

Email

I will attend the workshop on [*both days; Thursday only; Friday only*]