

The Language Design  
UQAM, May 27-29, 2010

Conference Program

Thursday, May 27:

9:00 - 9:30 Anna Maria Di Sciullo, UQAM  
Robert Proulx, Vice Rector, UQAM  
Anne Rochette, Dean, UQAM  
**Welcome**

**Language evolution and variation**

9:30 - 10:15 Massimo Piattelli-Palmarini, University of Arizona at Tucson:  
**Language design and evolution in a new perspective**

10:15 - 11:00 Giuseppe Longobardi, University of Trieste:  
**How to probe history with grammar**

11:00 - 11:15 Break

**Phylogeny, patterns of variance in the natural world**

11:15 - 12:00 Richard Palmer, University of Alberta:  
**Learning, developmental plasticity and the evolution of morphological asymmetries in animals**

Lunch

**Language design, patterns and complexity**

14:00 - 14:45 Lyle Jenkins, Boston Biolinguistics Institute:  
**Emergence of complexity in design the case of symmetry**

14:45 - 15:30 Anna Maria Di Sciullo, UQAM:  
**Asymmetry in language design, a biolinguistic perspective**

15:30 - 15:45 Break

15:45 - 16:30 Boris Steipe, University of Toronto:  
**Distribution and role of patterns in protein structure**

16:30 - 17:00 Brief meeting of the Biolinguistics Network

## Friday, May 28:

### Faculty of Language in the narrow sense

- 9:00 - 9:45 Cedric Boeckx, ICREA/Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona:  
**How the language organ self-organizes**
- 9:45 - 10:30 Dana Isac, Concordia University:  
**An exercise in syntactic (de)composition**
- 10:30 - 11:00 Hisatsugu Kitahara, Keio University:  
**On the labeling algorithm and its alleged exceptions**
- 11:00 - 11:15 Break
- 11:15 - 11:45 Christiana Christodoulou & Martina Wiltschko, UBC:  
**Function without content. Evidence from Greek subjunctive *na***
- 11:45 - 12:15 John Lumsden, UQAM:  
**Binary branching**

Lunch

### Faculty of Language in the broad sense

- 14:00 - 14:45 Howard Lasnik, University of Maryland, College Park:  
**A surprising consequence of single cycle syntax**
- 14:45 - 15:30 Peggy Speas, UMASS Amherst:  
**The Minimal Structure of the Left Periphery**
- 15:30 - 15:45 Break
- 15:45 - 16:30 James Higginbotham, USC:  
**Pronominal Perspectives**
- 16:30 - 17:15 Wolfram Hinzen, University of Durham:  
**Parts and wholes in syntax**
- 17:15 - 18:30 Poster session\*
- 18:30 - 19:15 Paul Pietroski, University of Maryland, College Park:  
**I-Languages and conceptual reanalysis**
- 19:15 - 20:00 Roberto De Almeida, Concordia University:  
**Where do coercion effects come from?**

## Saturday, May 29:

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9:00 - 9:45 William Idsardi, University of Maryland, College Park:  
**Language design and the syntax-phonology interface**

9:45 - 10:30 Charles Reiss, Concordia University:  
**Phonology is as recursive as syntax**

10:30 - 10:45 Break

### Processing, computation

10:45 - 11:15 Evie Malaia & Ronnie B. Wilbur, Purdue University:  
**Experimental evidence from sign language for a phonology-syntax-semantic interface**

11:15 - 12:00 Sandiway Fong, University of Arizona at Tucson & Jason Ginsburg, Aizu University:  
**Doubling constituents: Pronouns and antecedents in Phase Theory**

Lunch

### Development and variation

13:30 - 14:15 Partha Mitra, Cold Spring Harbor Institute:  
**Culture in the Zebra finch as a multigenerational phenotype**

14:15 - 15:00 Kleanthes Grohmann, University of Cyprus:  
**The dialect design: Socio-syntax of development and the grammar of Cypriot Greek**

15:00 - 15:15 Break

15:15 - 16:00 Tom Roeper, UMASS, Amherst:  
**Innate grammar and efficient acquisition**

16:00 - 16:30 Calixto Aguero Bautista, Universidad Autonoma de Santo Domingo:  
**Non-native acquisition from a biolinguistic perspective**

16:30 - 17:15 Ken Wexler, MIT:  
**Linguistic design and development**

Concluding remarks

## Poster session

Sergio Balari, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, Antonio Benítez-Burraco, Universidad de Huelva, Víctor M. Longa, Universidade de Santiago de Compostela & Guillermo Lorenzo, Universidad de Oviedo:

**Fossils of language: What if we were looking in the wrong places?**

Antonio Benítez-Burraco, Universidad de Huelva:

**'Language genes': They exist and we have them, but what do we really use them for?**

Shishir Bhattacharja, University of Dhaka:

**On the so-called post-syntactic compounds in Japanese**

Alex Drummond, University of Maryland, College Park:

**Constraints on sideward movement**

Atsushi Fujimori, UBC:

**The patterns of associating sounds with meanings: the case of telicity**

Thomas Graf, University of California, Los Angeles:

**Concealed reference-set computation or how syntax escapes the parser's clutches**

Tim Hunter, University of Maryland, College Park:

**Syntactic effects of conjunctivist interpretation**

Monica Irimia, University of Toronto:

**Explaining variation in resultative secondary predicates**

Stefanie Röhrig, University of Mainz:

**The acquisition of scalar implicatures**

Bridget Samuels, University of Maryland, College Park:

**Phonological forms: from ferrets to fingers**

Miyuki Sawada, National Kaohsiung Normal University:

**The syntax and semantics of compound sentences**

Jeffrey Watumull, University of Cambridge:

**Merge as a minimax solution to the optimization problem of generality**