

Historical Linguistics meets Experimental Pragmatics



Organizers: Eitan Grossman, Hebrew University

Ira Noveck, Centre de recherche français à Jérusalem

Research inspired by pragmatics has developed rapidly over the last 10 years or so. In the field of historical linguistics, recent paradigms have shown that semantic and grammatical change is rooted in the usage of listeners and speakers; more specifically, at least some types of change are thought to be the result of ordinary inferential processes. In the meantime, the field of pragmatics itself has been enriched by burgeoning experimental research: questions that had long remained the province of theory have moved into the laboratory. It is not surprising then that the questions, hypotheses, and insights from both historical linguistics and experimental pragmatics show a great deal of overlap. Such shared evolving interests present the two developing fields with a unique opportunity to benefit from one other. In this workshop, experts from both fields will meet so that, ideally, language change can be brought into the laboratory and so that theories stemming from research on language change can enrich the repertoire of questions dealt with by experimental research.

Wednesday 14 May (Starting at 14:30)

HUJI: Rabin Building Room 1001

14:15 **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION
FROM THE ORGANIZERS**

14:45 **Maj-Britt Mosegaard Hansen (U. Manchester):** Foregrounding and Backgrounding in semantic/pragmatic change

15:45 **Ira Noveck (CRFJ, CNRS Jérusalem):**

What Experimental Pragmatics has accomplished and what can it offer Historical Linguistics?

16:30-16:45 Coffee Break

16:45 **Eitan Grossman (Hebrew University):**

Contexts and inferences: Some hypotheses about pragmatics and grammaticalization

17:30-18:15 Roundtable discussion

Thursday 15 May

CRFJ, Shimshon 3 (near Beit-Lechem St.), Baka

10:00 **Petra Schumacher (University of Cologne):**

Meaning Shift in Language Comprehension

11:00 **Tiffany Morisseau (CRFJ-Jérusalem, U. de Lyon):** Social cognitive processes and language innovation: some experimental ideas

12:00-12:15 Coffee Break

12:15 **Zohar Eviatar (Haifa University):**

The way readers of different languages use their brains

13:15-14:45 Lunch

14:45 **Richard Waltereit (Newcastle University):**

Does pragmatics play a role in language change?

15:45 **Billy Clark (Middlesex University):** Relevance Theory and language change: some ideas and questions

16:45-17:00 Coffee

17:00-18:00 Roundtable discussion