

SCOPE OF THE WORKSHOP

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1 INTRODUCTION

This volume contains proceedings from the workshop *Interactions between syntax and semantics across frameworks*, held on 8th January 2015 at the Department of Theoretical and Applied Linguistics (DTAL), University of Cambridge.

The workshop aimed to provide a forum for early career researchers working on different grammatical formalisms. Some talks explicitly compared frameworks (e.g. those by Bob Borsley¹, Luke Burke and Patrick Elliott, and Lucía Contreras-García), whilst others addressed the interaction between syntax and semantics in a single framework (e.g. those by András Bány, J.M.M. Brown, Hannah Gibson, Georg Höhn, Moreno Mitrović, and Mark Steedman).

We would like to thank our invited speakers Bob Borsley, Hannah Gibson and Mark Steedman, and to acknowledge the financial support of the DTAL syntax cluster and the student committee of the Linguistics Association of Great Britain.

This brief introduction to the volume details the scope of the workshop. Section 2 introduces the aim of the workshop. Section 3 provides references for

¹ For this paper, cf. [Borsley \(2012\)](#)

the reading group preceding the workshop, and gives the workshop programme.

2 AIM OF WORKSHOP

Since the application of formal methods from mathematical logic to the analysis of natural language, pioneered by works like [Chomsky \(1957\)](#) and [Montague \(1974\)](#), syntax has seen a proliferation of theoretical frameworks which, despite superficial differences, share many common goals. High on the list is an elegant and descriptively adequate account of the relation between the syntactic structure of a sentence and its meaning.

In recent years, publications such as [Joshi, Vijay-Shaker & Weir \(1991\)](#) have shown that many different grammatical formalisms (e.g. Combinatory Categorical Grammars and Tree Adjoining Grammars) converge on the same class of formal languages, namely the Mildly Context Sensitive languages. Despite this commonality, research still proceeds in a largely fragmented fashion, with few platforms for discussion between syntacticians of different theoretical persuasions. Larger national conferences, such as the annual meeting of the LAGB, although theoretically diverse, tend not to be focused specifically on syntax, whilst smaller syntactic workshops and conferences are primarily organized by research groups working within a particular theoretical framework.

A small number of international events aimed at senior researchers have started to bridge this gap. One notable example was the 2013 colloquium *Workshop on Progress in Linguistics*, held in Berlin, the stated aim of which was “. . . to bring together researchers from various theoretical camps and discuss their frameworks and how they contribute to progress in linguistics.”².

Interactions between Syntax and Semantics across Frameworks (ISSAF) sought to build on this momentum to encourage discussion and collaboration between researchers explicitly at an early point in their careers, many of whom are working on the same empirical issues but within different theoretical frameworks. To be as fruitful as possible, the workshop focused on the interaction between structure and meaning in natural language, and was preceded by a reading group covering introductory works in different grammatical formalisms.

The workshop sought to overcome the geographical distribution of potentially interested researchers across the country by:

- Collaborating on the organization of the workshop and 4-session reading group across four institutions: Birkbeck University of London, University of Cambridge, University College London, and Queen Mary University of London

² <http://hpsg.fu-berlin.de/Events/HPSG2013/progling.html>

Scope of the workshop

- Featuring invited speakers from three additional institutions: Bob Borsley (University of Essex), Hannah Gibson (SOAS), and Mark Steedman (University of Edinburgh)
- Publishing online proceedings through Cambridge Occasional Papers in Linguistics to allow interested parties who were not able to attend the workshop to nonetheless have access to the papers presented

3 PROGRAMME AND READING LIST

Session 1

Date & time: October 20th, 17:00-19:00

Location: Chandler House, room 201, University College London

Paper: [Berwick & Epstein \(1995\)](#), [Borsley & Börjars \(2011\)](#)

Session 2

Date & time: November 3rd, 17:00-19:00

Location: Francis Bancroft Building, room 113, Queen Mary University of London

Paper: [Steedman \(1987\)](#)

Session 3

Date & time: November 17th, 17:00-19:00

Location: Chandler House, room 201, University College London

Paper: [Frank \(2006\)](#)

Session 4

Date & time: December 1st, 17:00-19:00

Location: Francis Bancroft Building, room 113, Queen Mary University of London

Paper: [Osborne & Groß \(2012\)](#)

Interactions between syntax and semantics across frameworks

Date: Thursday, 8th January 2015

Venue: GR06/07, English Faculty Building, Sidgwick Site, Sidgwick Avenue, Cambridge, CB3 9DD

Programme

Time	Session	
10:00-10:30	Luke Burke Patrick Elliott	Remarks on the Coordination of DPs and CPs
10:30-11:00	Jessica Brown	Apparently semantically-motivated extraction in an autonomous syntax
11:00-11:15	Coffee	
11:15-11:45	Lucia Contreras-García	The syntax-semantics interface in generative, functional and parallel architectures of grammar
11:45-12:45	Bob Borsley	Don't move!
12:45-13:45	Buffet lunch	
13:45-13:50	Linguistics Association of Great Britain announcement	
13:50-14:20	András Bárány	Object agreement with bound and free pronouns
14:20-14:50	Georg Höhn	Person marking and demonstratives - united under one head?
14:50-15:10	Coffee	
15:10-15:40	Hannah Gibson	Underspecification in multiverb constructions: Building meaning in context
15:40-16:10	Moreno Mitrović	Boolean atoms and the natural incarnations of XOR
16:10-16:30	Coffee	
16:30-17:00	Matthew Gotham	Towards Glue Semantics for Minimalist Syntax
17:00-18:00	Mark Steedman	Transitivity and the Scope of Null Indefinites

All welcome.

Do contact Jessica Brown (jb789@cam.ac.uk), Patrick Elliott (patrick.d.elliott@gmail.com) or Tom Stanton (tomgstanton@gmail.com) with any questions.

Organising committee:

András Bárány, Jessica Brown, Luke Burke, Patrick Elliott, Tom Stanton

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