

Workshop 2, Topic: Deictics and Demonstratives: Comparative and Empirical Approaches

Organizer: Volker Gast (Friedrich Schiller University Jena)

This workshop aims to bring together linguists and scholars from related fields investigating the use of expressions whose interpretation is a function of the context of speech (deixis), often combined with a non-verbal signal, such as a pointing gesture (demonstratives). Deixis and demonstration are central elements of linguistic systems and play a particularly important role in language acquisition. Their interpretation relies on both social and situated cognition, insofar as they require joint attention and perspective taking, and physical interaction with elements of the context of speech. Deixis and demonstratives are thus located at the interface of linguistic and meta-linguistic behaviour, opening up a broad range of topics for investigation.

Abstracts are invited dealing with any aspect relating to the function or use of deictics and demonstratives, e.g.

- comparative (typological or contrastive) studies of spoken or signed languages
- empirical (observational or experimental) investigations of their interpretation, use or acquisition
- multimodal studies dealing with the interaction of verbal and non-verbal (e.g. visual, kinesic, haptic) signals