

Empirical methods in syntactic theory and analysis

A thematic session to take place at **Palacký University in Olomouc, Czechia**, as part of the biannual Olomouc Linguistics Colloquium, **June 5-7, 2025**

Info about submission at https://olinco.upol.cz/

Convenor: Radek Šimík

We welcome submissions that address issues in syntax and its interfaces, particularly with semantics and morphology, from a quantitative perspective. Contributions may be experimental or corpus-based, hypothesis-driven or exploratory. Quantitative empirical methods have become a crucial component of contemporary syntactic theory and analysis. Acceptability ratings, the dominant paradigm in experimental syntax (Schütze & Sprouse 2014; Schütze 2016; Goodall 2021), have been effectively complemented by truth-value judgments or sentence-picture matching tasks used in semantic research (Matlock & Winter 2015, Solt 2023), as well as by paradigms focusing on syntactic and semantic processing, such as self-paced reading, eye-tracking, or

neuroimaging techniques (see recent surveys by Felser 2021, Kluender 2021, and Matchin 2021). Syntactic questions have also been approached from a corpus-based perspective (Francom 2021). Syntactically annotated corpora of a wide range of languages, developed within the Universal Dependencies framework (de Marneffe et al. 2021), offer a valuable resource for addressing typologically oriented research questions in syntax (e.g., Levshina 2019). Contributions are not restricted to any particular theoretical framework or topic; any empirically rigorous work on syntax and its interfaces, whether formal or usage-based, is welcome.

References

Felser, Claudia. 2021. Eye-tracking and self-paced reading. In Goodall (ed.)

2021. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108569620.024

Francom, Jerid. 2021. Corpus studies of syntax. In Goodall (ed.)

2021. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108569620.026

Goodall, Grant (ed.). 2021. The Cambridge handbook of experimental syntax. Cambridge University Press. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108569620

Kluender, Robert. 2021. Nothing entirely new under the sun: ERP responses to the manipulations of syntax. In Goodall (ed.) 2021. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108569620.025

Levshina, Natalia. 2019. Token-based typology and word order entropy: A study based on Universal Dependencies. *Linguistic Typology* 23(3), 533-572. https://doi.org/10.1515/lingty-2019-0025

de Marneffe, Marie-Catherine, Christopher D. Manning, Joakim Nivre, and Daniel Zeman. 2021. Universal dependencies. *Computational Linguistics* 47(2), 255-

308. https://doi.org/10.1162/coli a 00402

Matchin, William. 2021. Neuroimaging. In Goodall (ed.)

2021. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108569620.028

Matlock, Teenie & Bodo Winter. 2015. Experimental semantics. In Bernd Heine and Heiko Narrog (eds.), *The Oxford handbook of linguistic analysis*, 2nd edition. Oxford University Press. https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780199677078.013.0037

Schütze, Carson & Jon Sprouse. 2014. Judgment data. In Sharma Devyani and Robert J. Podesva (eds.), Research methods in linguistics, 27-50. Cambridge University Press.

Schütze, Carson. 2016. The empirical base of linguistics: Grammaticality judgments and linguistic methodology. Berlin: Language Science
Press. https://doi.org/10.17169/langsci.b89.100

Solt, Stephanie. 2023. Experimental semantics. In Sandrine Zufferey and Pascal Gygax (eds.), *The Routledge handbook of experimental linguistics*, 71-84. London: Routledge. https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003392972-7