

International Conference GALA 13 Call for Papers

GALA 13 (Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition)

Date: 7-9 September 2017

Location: Palma de Mallorca, Spain

Contact Person: Pedro Guijarro-Fuentes

Meeting Website: <http://www.uibcongres.org/GALA13>

Meeting Description:

GALA 13 (Generative Approaches to Language Acquisition)

Palma de Mallorca, 7-9 September 2017

GALA 13 will be hosted by the Universitat de les Illes Balears and will take place in Palma de Mallorca (Spain). It aims to gather people working on the acquisition of languages from a generative perspective.

Keynote Speakers:

The organizing committee is pleased to welcome the following high-profile keynote speakers:

- *João Costa* (Universidade Nova de Lisboa)
Website: <http://www.clunl.edu.pt/en/?id=917&mid=196>
- *Anna Gavarró Algueró* (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)
Website: <http://filcat.uab.cat/clt/Gavarró/gavarró.html/Welcome.html>
- *Barbara Höhle* (Universität Potsdam)
Website: <http://www.barbara-hoehle.de/>
- *Natascha Müller* (Bergische Universität Wuppertal)
Website: <http://www.romanistik.uni-wuppertal.de/personal/sprachwissenschaft/prof-dr-phil-habil-natascha-mueller.html>

Submission of Abstracts:

For the Main Session, we invite abstract submissions for 30-minute oral presentations (20 minutes for the presentation and 10 minutes for discussion) or posters (the maximum size for posters will be A0) of original, unpublished work on all subfields of generative language acquisition: L1 acquisition, L2 acquisition, L3/Ln and bi/multilingual language, heritage language acquisition, language pathology and language impairment, sign language, etc.

The language of the conference will be English.

In addition to the Main Session, four following thematic Workshops have been scheduled.

1. “Code switching and bilingualism”

Organizers: Luis López (University of Illinois at Chicago), Antje Muntendam (Florida State University), M. Carmen Parafita Couto (Leiden University), Hans Stadthagen González (University of Southern Mississippi)

Keynote speakers:

Maria José Ezeizabarrena (University of the Basque Country)

Juana Licerias (University of Ottawa and Universidad Nebrija)

Description:

Most research on code-switching/code-mixing has focused on early bilinguals, implicitly assumed to have enough competence in each language. Child and adult code-switching/code-mixing have not been extensively compared and we are only beginning to gain insight from the code-switching/code-mixing patterns and preferences that differentiate child and adult native speakers, simultaneous bilingual speakers, and second language speakers. The workshop seeks to shed new light on the longstanding issues that language acquisition raises regarding the mechanisms underlying code-switching / code-mixing.

2. “Grammatical processing in second language speakers: agreement, polarity, anaphora and other grammatical illusions”

Organizers: Carlos Acuña-Fariña (University of Santiago de Compostela) & Isabel Fraga-Carou (University of Santiago de Compostela)

Keynote speaker: Claudia Felser (University of Potsdam)

Description: The human parser is surprisingly accurate in applying the complex collection of grammatical rules. Yet, sometimes real-time linguistic processes give rise to representations that are not allowed by the grammar but are perceived as acceptable. This phenomenon is referred to as ‘grammatical illusions’ (Phillips, Wagers and Lau, 2011). The illusory perception of the linguistic input has been observed in a diverse range of structures, including verbal agreement (Pearlmutter, Garnsey, and Bock 1999; Wagers, Lau, & Phillips 2009), negative polarity items (Drenhaus et al. 2005; Vasishth et al. 2008; Xiang et al. 2009, 2013), anaphora (Parker, Lago, and Phillips 2015), comparative structures (Wellwood et al. 2012) and other dependencies. For instance, an illusion of grammaticality arises when a sentence like ‘The key to the cabinets are on the table’ (Bock & Miller, 1991) is judged as acceptable despite the fact that the morphological features of the verb do not agree with its subject. This is known as an attraction effect. Grammatical illusory phenomena have been understood as the result of constraints imposed by the structure of working memory in terms of the retrieval mechanisms that are used in order to carry out grammatical operations (Vasishth et al., 2008). Nonetheless, they also bring interesting questions on the nature of the linguistic system and the psychological status of linguistic representations in real-time. The workshop seeks to shed new light from the perspective of second language acquisition on issues that have mainly been studied in terms of adult first language processing. This shift of focus raises several questions: (a) To what extent do first and second language speakers differ in their processing of these so-called illusory structures? (b) In what ways can the grammatical processing of second language learners inform the real-time status of linguistic operations? (c) Is it possible to generalize the predictions from adult native speakers to second language proficient speakers in terms of their mental grammars? (d) What are the effects of proficiency? The workshop invites submissions on studies

addressing these and other questions related to grammatical processing in second language learners.

3. “Acquisition of Subject-Verb Agreement”

Organizer: Géraldine Legendre (Johns Hopkins University)

Keynote speaker: Ianthi Tsimpli (University of Cambridge)

Description: Subject-Verb (SV) agreement is a fundamental and cross-linguistically frequent morpho-syntactic relation, which has been shown to pose significant challenges to both normally developing children (e.g. in comprehension, Johnson, de Villiers, & Seymour, 2005; Pérez-Leroux, 2005) and language-impaired children (e.g. Clahsen et al, 1997; Dromi et al., 1999; Rispens & Been, 2007). Difficulty with SV agreement has in fact been claimed to be a marker of SLI, e.g. in German (Eisenbeiss, Bartke and Clahsen, 2005/2006). There also exists experimental evidence that argues against generalizing across languages, on the basis of early acquisition of French SV agreement in normally developing children (Legendre et al., 2010, 2014) and in SLI children (Rice et al., 1997). These discrepancies bear on broader theoretical debates, in particular whether the system of knowledge underlying SV agreement is (im)mature or (un)impaired, depending on the population considered, and/or whether perceptual and processing factors are primarily responsible for the variety of empirical observations. The workshop invites submissions on studies addressing these and other questions related to SV agreement and language acquisition theory more broadly, by enlarging the cross-linguistic comparison, opening the discussion to the full range of morpho-syntactic features, targeting a variety of language acquisition contexts, and incorporating both grammar and processing perspectives.

4. “Formal Perspectives in the Acquisition of Minority Languages”

Organizers: Alejandro Cuza (Purdue University) and Liliana Sánchez (Rutgers University)

Keynote speaker: Mike Putnam (Penn State University)

Description: Previous research with minority languages documents instances of linguistic variability, leading to lexical and morpho-syntactic asymmetries across different population types (Putnam, 2015, 2016; Sánchez, 2004; Muysken, 1989, 1995; Tonhauser, 2007, 2015). The goal of this workshop is to bring forward recent theoretical, behavioral and experimental work on the acquisition of minority languages from a formal perspective. Particularly, the workshop will discuss issues related to, but not limited to, some of the following topics:

- Developmental asymmetries across population types.
- Feature reassembly/reconfiguration.
- Frequency effects and linguistic variation.
- Early and late child bilinguals
- L2 and heritage language development
- Language dominance factors.
- Community characteristics and ethnolinguistic vitality.
- Structural complexity and surface overlap.
- Experimental issues (elicited production vs. intuition data, socio-cultural considerations, data analysis).
- Creoles and decreolization.

Submission guidelines:

Prospective authors are invited to submit abstracts in any of the topics listed above. Abstracts should not exceed one page in letter-size or A4 paper, with one extra page for examples, tables, figures and references, with 1-inch or 2.5 cm margins on all sides and 12 point font-size. The abstract should have a clear title and should not reveal the name of the author(s). The abstracts must be uploaded as PDF attachments through the following website: <http://www.uibcongres.org/GALA13>. Submissions are limited to one individual and one joint abstract per author, or two joint abstracts per author.

When you submit your abstract on the GALA conference website, you will be asked to provide a short summary (150 words max.) of the abstract which will be added to the book of abstracts. Upon submission, please indicate whether your work should be considered for an oral presentation (either the Main Session or one of the Workshops) or for a poster (or both). Submitting the same abstract to both the Main Session and to one of the Workshops is not allowed.

To submit an abstract, please go to the following web conference page:
<http://www.uibcongres.org/GALA13>

Publication:

All authors who present their work at the conference will be invited to submit their paper for publication. As in previous editions, the outcome of GALA 13 will be a collective book published by a high standing international publisher in the field. This year one of the novelties of the conference will consist in the publication. Besides publishing the conference proceedings with Cambridge Scholar Publishing as in past editions, a small selection of papers will be included in an edited volume by Springer (Book Series “Studies in Theoretical Psycholinguistics”). Papers for either publication will be selected on the basis of their contribution to specific themes of particular interest arising from the conference through a blind peer-review process.

Registration Fees:

Faculty: 180€

Students: 90€

The fee includes attendance to all the sessions of the conference, certificate of presentation (for speakers), certificate of attendance (for non-speakers and speakers), conference documentation, coffee breaks and reception on 7 September 2017.

Registration Deadline: July 1

Important note: In case the registration is not done by July 1, the presentation or poster will not be included in the conference program.

Important Dates:

Deadline for abstract submission: **February 13, 2017**

Notification of acceptance: **March 31, 2017**

Registration opening: **April 1, 2017**

Registration deadline: **July 1, 2017**

Conference dates: **September 7-9, 2017**

Visit our website (<http://www.uibcongres.org/GALA13>) for updates and further information.

Contact Information:

If you have any further questions, please contact us at <http://www.uibcongres.org/GALA13>.

Organizing Local Committee:

Pedro Guijarro-Fuentes and Cristina Suárez-Gómez