Workshop in neurolinguistics



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This workshop addresses to young linguists who either - just want to learn about the story how the linguistics of nonliteral language "entered" psychiatric and developmental reserach as well as brain imaging neuroscience during the last two decades - are (already) in search for new, so far unadressed reserach questions in this field.

I will give an (hopefully) generally understandable introduction how functional brain imaging (fMRI) works and what should be kept in mind when reading papers on brain inaging of language. After that, I will give an overview on the current knwoledge on the fuinctional brain anatomy of nonliteral language (metaphor, irony, metonymy, idiom, proverbs).

The second part is on the role of nonliteral language in clinical reserach. Patients with different psychiatric diagnoses (e.g. Schizophrenia, Autism or Alzheimer?s disease) have difficulties in understanding nonliteral expressions such as proverbs, irony or metaphors. The workshop attendees will learn on how linguistic reserach can contribute to understand the pathophysiology behind these diseases.