

Workshop by
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Analyzing metaphor in gesture: An introduction

How do the gestures that we sometimes produce while talking relate to the words we utter? In this workshop, we will focus on the different ways in which spontaneous gestures with speech may relate to abstract ideas being expressed. Such gestures can be seen as metaphoric in how they express a topic (the abstract idea) through the vehicle of the manual gesture (the shape of the hands, the direction they are facing, where they are positioned, the movement they make). Students will be introduced to a method of analysis which is in development – a metaphor identification procedure for gesture – and given the chance to apply it in the analysis of a short video clip. Attention will also be given to the special role played by metonymy, since gestures almost always represent some image by only showing a part of it. In conclusion, students will brainstorm about possible projects which could employ this kind of research. Though the workshop will be limited to an introduction to the analysis of metaphorically used gestures, it will provide a taste of what this kind of research involves, what it can reveal, and what it can be used for. Participants are encouraged to bring a laptop computer to allow for analysis of the video clip during the workshop.