



# Ego-Evidentiality and the right(s) to know (better)

## International Workshop

25.-26.04.2024 Tübingen,  
Bonatzbau, Schulungsraum  
Wilhelmstr. 32, Room B004

Evidentiality is commonly described as the marking of source of information (firsthand vs. non-firsthand) or also as the discrimination between direct knowledge through sense perception, on the one hand, and indirect knowledge, namely hearsay and inference, on the other.

The modern Tibetic languages developed quite a particular type of ‘evidential’ marking. One of the key features is the subjective involvement of the epistemic origo (the speaker in statements and the addressee in questions plus the original speaker in reported speech) in the events reported. The ‘system’ is thus also known under the key terms of ‘egophoricity’ and ‘conjunct/disjunct’, both concepts often mistaken for a weird syntactic person category (ego vs. non-ego).

However, the ‘system’ is extremely flexible, allowing, in principle, most if not all forms for all persons, albeit in different frequencies and for different motivations. It further does not only deal with the *source* of information or the *access* channels (self-centred knowledge, perception, and inferences), but also with the subjective assessment of the situation and/or the socio-pragmatic situation. The pragmatic factors appear to be related to a speaker’s rights to treat a particular piece of knowledge as belonging to his or her ‘territory of information’, this also means that speaker-hearer (a)symmetries may play a crucial role.

The workshop aims at discussing the ‘unsystematic’ subjective and pragmatic aspects of ‘ego’-evidentiality or participatory knowledge marking.

Invited speakers: **Ilana Mushin**, Professor of Linguistics, Deputy Head of School, Linguistics Major Convener, School of Languages and Cultures, University of Queensland, Australia.

**Nicolas Tournadre**, Professor emeritus, Department of Linguistics and Aix-Marseille University and CNRS, France.



## Program

### Thursday, 25.04.2024 – Tibetic languages

- 09:30-10:00 Address of welcome and introduction
- 10:00-11:30 Nicola Tournadre & Dickey Tsang Tsering Wangdue The grammatical expressions of access to personal knowledge and personal experience. *An illustration of the flexibility of the Tibetic evidential systems.*
- break
- 11:45-12:30 Hiroyuki Suzuki, Towards shaping the egophoric category in Tibetic languages: Suggestions from the factual evidential expression emerging in Japanese
- 12:30-13:15 Rtamgrin Lhamo  
lunch break
- 15:15-16:00 Wang Jiahong Distribution of egophoricity in Golog: An investigation of flexibility and inflexibility
- 16:00-16:45 Juha Yiliniemi  
break
- 17:00-18:00 Discussion Flexibility of personal and neutral forms in Denjongke

### Friday, 26.04.2024 – Tibetic and beyond

- 09:45-10:00 Introduction to the second part
- 10:00-11:30 Ilana Mushin Managing knowledge asymmetry in grammar and interaction
- break
- 11:45-12:30 Henrik Bergqvist Revisiting the origo: a view from the Andes
- 12:30-13:15 Christian Huber  
lunch break
- 15:15-16:00 Zoe Tribur, Sangsrgyas Tshering & Rtamdrin Lhamo A preliminary account of “non-canonical” occurrences of epistemic markers in spontaneous speech data of Amdo Tibetan
- 16:00-16:45 Bettina Zeisler A paradigm of pragmatic flexibility: the case of the Ladakhi dialects
- break
- 17:00-18:00 Discussion

We warmly welcome guests. Please register with Bettina Zeisler before April 17. Registration is free of costs. For further questions, please contact Bettina Zeisler, [zeis@uni-tuebingen.de](mailto:zeis@uni-tuebingen.de).

DFG Projekt **Evidentialität, epistemische Modalität und Sprecherhaltung im Ladakischen** - Modalität und die Semantik-Pragmatik-Grammatik-Schnittstelle / **Evidentiality, epistemic modality, and speaker attitude in Ladakhi** - Modality and the interface for semantics, pragmatics, and grammar