Title of the Workshop
Grounded and Symbolic Representations in Language Processing

Organizers
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Date
May 27-30, 2020

Program
There will be about 15 talks by invited speakers. A postdoc or a PhD student may accompany invited speakers and present his/her work in the poster session.

Special Issue
A special issue with contributions from the workshop will be published. Submitted papers will undergo a regular review process.
Location
The workshop will take place in the "Alte Aula", a historic building in the heart of Tübingen dating back to 1547.

Aims
The workshop will focus on the interplay of grounded and symbolic representations in language processing. This topic has been of growing interest to researchers concerned with language, both in cognitive psychology and linguistics (see for example de Vega, Glenberg, & Graesser, 2008). Special focus will be on the question, what role the two representational formats (grounded and symbolic) play in meaning composition. In research on grounded cognition, this question is currently a matter of great debate (e.g., Dove, 2009). While a large number of findings demonstrate that sensorimotor experiences are routinely re-activated during language comprehension (see for example Kaup, de la Vega, Strozyk, & Dudschig, 2015), there is increasing support for the view that the contribution of grounded representations largely depends on the context (e.g., Zwaan, 2014). In research on symbolic cognition, the question concerning functional relevancy has not received a lot of attention. Surprisingly, very little research even aims at providing conclusive evidence. As a result, research targeting the interplay of the two representational formats in language processing is almost inexistent. Thus, our workshop will not only address the question of what grounded and symbolic representations contribute to language processing but will also consider how these two types of representational formats interact. An additional aim is to discuss the determining factors that promote the involvement of grounded or symbolic representations in language processing.

Schedule
Arrival and welcome dinner on the evening of May 27, 2020. Workshop sessions will start on May 28 at 9:00 am and end on May 30 at 1:00 pm. There will be about five talks per day plus a poster session on May 28.
Costs

Travel and accommodation costs will be covered for invited speakers. Postdocs and PhD students are welcome to accompany invited speakers (15 places available); we will organize cheap accommodation.

About Tübingen and the University

Tübingen is a traditional university town in southern Germany. Its current student population makes up around 25,000 of its 85,000 inhabitants. The town has such charm that it is very common for people to come as students and never move away again. It is a place that people fall in love with.

A major factor in its attraction is the very well preserved medieval town center, which has so many picturesque and charming spots that even long-term residents come across new ones fairly frequently. In spite of its very rich historical heritage, Tübingen is not overrun by tourists; it remains very much itself, unspoiled. The university, founded in 1477, forms an integral part of the old town.

References


