

Placeholders such as *thingy* or *whatchamacallit* are documented in languages worldwide. Most placeholders replace lexical expressions when these are not available, but also appear in contexts where lexical information is deliberately omitted or where variables are required.

Although internationally there has been a strong increase in research in recent years, many fundamental questions, not least their linguistic status, remain unresolved.

The aim of this DFG-funded conference is to bring together international researchers currently working on placeholders in order to clarify the status, functions as well as the semantic and formal properties of placeholder expressions in African, American, Asian and European languages.



Placeholders in East and West

October 10th-11th, 2024

Organisation:

Wiltrud Mihatsch (Tübingen)
Inga Hennecke (Tübingen)



Thursday October 10th 2024 - room 027

9:00 **Wiltrud Mihatsch & Inga Hennecke (Tübingen)**
Welcome and introduction
Wiltrud Mihatsch (Tübingen)
A brief state of the art

Morphosyntactic properties of placeholders

10:00 **Tohru Seraku (Seoul)**
The syntax of placeholder: an incremental grammar approach

10:30 **Brigitte Pakendorf & Françoise Rose (Lyon)**
Placeholders and related items: reassessing the typology

11:00 **Coffee break**

The semantics of placeholders

11:30 **Todor Koev (Konstanz)**
Placeholder indefinites in reportative contexts

12:00 **Katharina Gerhalter (Graz)**
Spanish *fulano*: Lexicalization of a proper name placeholder

12:30 **Marco Fasciolo (Paris)**
General nouns as clues for a non-semantic type of content

13:00 **Lunch break**

Discourse functions and variational properties of placeholders

14:30 **Eduardo Amaral (Belo Horizonte)**
Pragmatic and variable aspects of placeholders in Portuguese

15:00 **Nino Amirdze**
On morphology and pragmatics of Georgian placeholder verbs

Case studies of formal and functional properties of placeholders in French

15:30 **Céline Benninger (Strasbourg)**
The placeholder *chose*: an overview

16:00 **Coffee break**

16:30 **Catherine Schnedecker (Strasbourg)**
“Placeholders” à trait [+hum] en français : panorama et typologie

17:00 **Gilles Corminboeuf (Fribourg), Marie-José Béguelin & Laure Anne Johnsen (Neuchâtel)**
Les termes “omnibus” *truc* et *machin* en français : Description, Théorie, Enseignement)

17:30 **Paul Cappeau (Poitiers)**
L'emploi de mots passe-partout dans les échanges à l'hôpital

18:00 **Rembert Eufe (Tübingen)**
Placeholdering in Latin formularies from the Merovingian period

Friday October 11th 2024 - room 226

Sources of placeholders

9:00 **Lawrence Cheung (Hongkong)**
(Im)Possible substitution targets of Wh-Placeholders across six languages

9:30 **Inga Hennecke (Tübingen)**
Bagay and *zafê* as placeholders in French-based Creole languages

10:00 **Wiltrud Mihatsch (Tübingen)**
Lexical sources of Romance placeholders

10:30 **Coffee break**

Crosslinguistic perspectives on placeholders

11:00 **Abhijnan Pritam Sarma & Sweta Sinha (Patna)**
A Cross-linguistic Study of Placeholders in Hindi and Assamese

11:30 **Bethany Bateman, Chad Howe & Sarah Hubbel (Athen)**
Placeholder *na* in Quechua/ Spanish bilingual speech

12:00 **Anne-Maria Fehn (Porto), Bonny Sands (Flagstaff), Jeremy Coburn (Bloomington), Andrew Harvey (Bayreuth) & Kirk Miller (San Diego)**
Placeholders in selected hunter-gatherer languages from Africa

12:30 **Silvia Adler (Ramat Gan)**
The situation of *situation* in French and Hebrew

13:00 **Lunch break**

At the limits of placeholders

14:30 **Richard Huyghe (Fribourg)**
Specifying underspecification: placeholders in contrast with general nouns and shell nouns

15:00 **Guillem Belmar Viernes (Eugene) & Jeremías Salazar (Santa Barbara)**
Hesitation and Flow of information: The generic classifier used a placeholder in Sà'án Sàví ñà ñuù Xnúvúkó (Mixtepec Mixtec)

15:30 **General discussion and preparation of publications**