

Workshop — Language-based vs. language-free components of cognition: How does language shape thinking?

February 10, 2026

Organizers: Karin Bausenhardt, David Dignath, Barbara Kaup

Location: Villa Köstlin; Rümelinstr. 27; 72070 Tübingen

In this informal workshop, we will explore perspectives on the interplay between linguistic and non-linguistic cognition in the human mind. A central question is whether certain cognitive functions may include both language-bound and language-independent components. A second question is how language may shape thinking. Our aim is to create an open and friendly atmosphere that encourages discussion and idea sharing. Rather than showcasing completed research programs, the workshop will feature talks that present novel or developing ideas. Through this exchange, we hope to identify useful starting points for a meaningful distinction between linguistic and non-linguistic cognition.

09.45 – 10.00 Welcome

10.00 - 11.20 Talks & Discussion I

David Dignath (Tübingen): *Cognitive control as internalized coordination: Why private control mechanisms originate in public action*

Klaus Oberauer (Zürich): *How does language shape thinking? A working-memory perspective*

11.20 - 11.40 Coffee break

11.40 - 13.00 Talks & Discussion II

Jan de Hower (Gent): *Language-based and language-free cognition as different types of relational responding*

Rolf Ulrich & Karin Bausenhardt (Tübingen): *What more can do*

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch break

14.00 - 15.20 Talks & Discussion III

Günther Knoblich (Wien): *How do non-verbal and verbal communication support joint action?*

Carolin Dudschig (Tübingen): *Conflict and control in language and beyond*

15.20 - 15.40 Coffee break

15.40 - 17.00 Talks & Discussion IV

Claudia Friedrich (Tübingen): *Cognitive heuristics and language acquisition*

Francesca Capuano & Barbara Kaup (Tübingen): *Motor stereotypes vs. motor simulation: How to open a bottle*

17.00 - 17.30 Final Discussion