

## **SLE 2015 Round Table ‘Interaction and Linguistic Structure’**

Plenary speakers:

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Abstract

Relationships between linguistic systems on the one hand and their use in communication and cognition on the other, have, in one way or another, always been a topic of study and theorizing in the language sciences. Recent years have witnessed an increased interest in the dynamics of human interaction (not limited to verbal interaction), in both its cognitive underpinnings as well as its consequences (linguistic and otherwise). On the one hand, linguistic systems guide (and constrain?) interaction and cognitive processing, but at the same time (properties of) these systems can be argued to emerge from their being adapted to their use in interaction. The exploration of these issues moreover coincides with an increased use of combinations of traditional and advanced methodologies (such as neuro-imaging and computational modelling).

The goal of this round table is to discuss theoretical positions and methodological considerations that (should) guide future research into relationships between linguistic structure and human interaction. What are causes and what are effects in this connection? What role is played by features of interaction that are not traditionally thought of as linguistic? Can interaction differ across cultures as a consequence of different ‘grammars for interaction’? Are there general patterns of interaction and if so, do these have any relationship to general patterns in linguistic structure? What are the advantages and disadvantages of specific methodologies in the scientific enterprise of unravelling the complexity of the dynamics of the connection between human interaction and structural properties of human languages?