



**Der Sonderforschungsbereich 991 "Die Struktur von Repräsentationen in Sprache, Kognition und Wissenschaft" lädt herzlich ein zum Vortrag von**

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12:30 – 14:00 Uhr

22.01.2C

***Cancellation, underspecification and experimental pragmatics***

Grice's argument for assuming that conversational implicatures are cancelable is their context-dependence. This doesn't mean that implicatures are 'weaker than entailments'. Rather, if a context is sufficiently specified they are as strong as can be, and if a context is underspecified they are absent altogether. With this in mind we turn to experimental pragmatics, using the ignorance inferences associated with modified numerals ("at least", "more than") as a case study. I present joint experimental work with Adrian Brasoveanu (UCSC) showing that hitherto observed contrasts disappear when the context is controlled for, suggesting that the culprit was an interaction of contextual underspecification and typical use. I then turn to results by Van Tiel et al. on exhaustivity implicatures and, if time permits, results by Brasoveanu et al. on "yes" and "no", suggesting that the same explanation is available there.

**Studierende und andere Interessierte sind herzlich willkommen.**