



News #2 | Weapon of Choice

"*Sprache ist eine Waffe. Haltet sie scharf*" ("Language is a weapon. Keep it loaded") - Starting from this quote by **Kurt Tucholsky**, some really prominent people came together for a language conference of the Berlin-Brandenburg Academy of Sciences and Humanities in January, 2018 ([Ist Sprache eine Waffe?](#)). Our colleague **Birgit Hellwig** ([project B02](#)) had the great opportunity to talk about small languages, next to invitees such as nobel laureate **Herta Müller** and FAZ co-publisher **Jürgen Kaube**. Birgit presented the project "Documenting child language: The Qaqet Baining of Papua New Guinea" founded by Volkswagen Stiftung ([Details](#)). See the conference's press outcome in [Süddeutsche Zeitung](#), [Tagesspiegel](#), and [Deutschlandfunk](#) for critical reviews.

Since it's friday, turning up Fatboy Slim's [Weapon of choice](#) is considered a great choice. Do you agree? Have a great start into two months of Semesterferien! **Frieda Berg**

Reminder: Carnival days

Denn wenn et Trömmelche jeht... On thursday, February 8 (*Weiberfastnacht*), and monday, February 12, 2018 (*Rosenmontag*), the House of Prominence is "**closed**". In this sense: *Alaaf!*

But still, if anybody **wants** to come for work, you're allowed to. The transponders will let you in as usual. Please mind that there won't be service hours from Z, Ö, helpdesk, and IT.

*Was sagt ein Krokodil,
nachdem es einen Clown
aufgefressen hat?*

- "*Schmeckt irgendwie komisch.*"

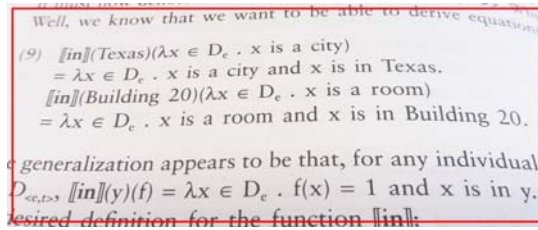


Formal Semantics Club

A small group of CRC members kick-off a new reader's club, organised by doctoral students **Frederike Weeber**, **Semra Kizilkaya** and others. The club will read and discuss key papers on the topic of Formal Semantics. Whoever is interested, may join this informal group that is starting weekly meet-ups on **tuesday, February 6, 2018**. For more



information, please contact Frederike, room 1.05, -89902 or fwieberl@uni-koeln.de



Thalamic Deep Brain Stimulation

A new publication came out in [project A04](#), "Dynamic modelling of prosodic prominence", headed by **Doris Mücke**: Mücke, D., Hermes, A., Roettger, T. B., Becker, J., Niemann, H., Dembek, T. A., et al. (2018). *The effects of Thalamic Deep Brain Stimulation on speech dynamics in patients with Essential Tremor: An articulographic study. PLoS ONE, 13(1), e0191359.* <http://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0191359>

CRC is featured in new PhilFak brochure

You can find a short portrait of our CRC Prominence in Language (and our great Gummersbach team picture as well) in the new brochure "Research 2017/18", published by the **Faculty of Arts and Humanities** this week. The PhilFak brochure is written in German and English and is also available [online](#).

The gÖssip:

* **Daniel Buncic**, Principal Investigator of [project B01](#) and head of the [CCLS Cologne Center of Language Sciences](#), is soon going to the States for six months. Daniel and his family will be moving to Ohio. They plan to come back in August 2018.

* In February 2018, **Maria Andreou** and **Claudia Rizzo**, both working in [project C03](#) "Reference management in bilingual narratives", will be conducting fieldwork with bilingual children in Milano, Italy. This fieldwork continues similar work they

In the middle:

Sonja Eisenbeiß at Essex Language Games Club

Introducing!

You sure took notice already: **Sonja Eisenbeiß**, General Linguistics, supports [project C07](#) during the parental leave of Clare Patterson. Let's get to know her via a short interview:

1. How do you like working at the House of Prominence so far? *Sonja Eisenbeiß: It is very inspiring to have all these different projects in one building – you can share ideas, tools, tasks – or tea grown in our new office "garden".*

2. Do you think science and social media fit together? *I find blogs and Twitter a great way to keep track of interesting projects, share resources, and connect with others. I put resources that I find useful on my websites, which also serve as my "externalized memory": experimentalfieldlinguistics.wordpress.com and childdirectedspeech.wordpress.com*

3. What do you want to achieve in 2018? *I want to carry out studies on perception verbs, teach a course on "Prominence", write about "psycholinguistics in the field", and develop new psycholinguistic tasks that combine language, play, and nature.*

Welcome, Sonja! If you have any questions, contact her on third floor, room 3.05, -89918 and seisenb1@uni-koeln.de



A cryptical language noone can read

Nikolaus P. Himmelmann recommends this profound radio piece featuring UoC's computer linguist **Jürgen Hermes**, who talks about the difficult analysis of the Voynich manuscript. The manuscript is a famous code from around

conducted in November 2017 in a bilingual Greek-Italian school in Athens.

* **Flat wanted:** Roya Sadeghpour and her boyfriend are looking for an apartment. The main criteria are price (max. 700 € warm rent) and accessibility to the House of Prominence via local public transport (e.g., Hürth is also fine). Do you have *any* suggestions for them? Please contact Roya, room 2.12, -89912, rsadeghp@uni-koeln.de

early 15th century - written in a yet unexplored language and in an unknown writing system. Who invented this?

[DLF Nova | Einhundert "Wir verstehen uns. Nicht." | 1:02:54 Std](#) (in German only)



Finalement: Some impressions of the Prominence workshop we had two weeks ago.

What's on your agenda? Do you want to share it with the CRC community? Send us your news, interesting opportunities and/or thoughts. Get in touch with project Ö: f.berg@uni-koeln.de

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SFB Prominence in Language
Luxemburger Str. 299
50939 Köln
Newsletter abbestellen*