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Von: SFB Prominence in Language <ewindbe1@uni-koeln.de>
An: sfb1252-hk@uni-koeln.de
Betreff: [SFB1252-HK] Newsletter #30 | PhD Edition

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#30 | Special Edition - In our defense 🎓

Dear all,

We're still in the middle of the semester break and summer. Some might wonder why we are pulling you out of the dull dryness of this collective vacation. In our defense: we have news to share, great news in fact!

The semester ended eventfully and was followed by a milestone for some of our colleagues. It was finally their turn to complete their PhDs. With a couple of recent defenses taking place, we would like to take this opportunity to highlight their achievements, and to celebrate them. Our early career researchers have each made a big step in their careers. Congratulations to everyone, the CRC is proud of you!

Please take a look at their dissertation topics, learn more about their experiences during the past few years, and find out what's next to come.

Enjoy the read and have a wonderful end of summer!

Warm wishes,
Britt Krukau

Maria Bardají i Farré (Associated with B05)

Title: Nominalization in Totoli and other western Austronesian languages

Disputatio: July 14, 2022

Doing a PhD within a CRC, what does that entail?

In my opinion, it has many advantages, both in academic and personal terms. It allowed me to exchange ideas constantly. I had different opportunities to share my work, not only with my supervisor but also with the artes class, other PhD students, Post-



Docs and PIs from other projects. All this feedback was very helpful and broadened the perspectives from which I was looking at the data. In addition, the chats during lunch or the shared coffee breaks balanced out the "loneliness" of the writing process.

How did the pandemic affect your work and research during the time of your PhD?

Because of the pandemic, I wasn't able to do fieldwork in Tolitoli (Indonesia). I had to do elicitations via video call. That was a big challenge: very few speakers can be reached in this way, internet connection wasn't great, etc. However, although remote elicitation cannot replace actual fieldwork, I was happy to try it and to see that it can be useful for certain purposes.

What's next?

I will stay in project B05 as a Post-Doc until the end of the second phase. So, more Totoli for the next two years, but with different topics. I am really looking forward to it!



Timo Buchholz (C04)

Title: Intonation between Phrasing and Accent: Spanish and Quechua in Huari

Defensio: April, 2022 at the FU Berlin

What was the biggest challenge?

Finding the patterns in all the variation. We'd gathered all of this amazing naturalistic fieldwork data, and it was showing so much variation, at the beginning it looked like anything was possible, especially in Quechua for which there was no detailed prosodic description.

What surprised you the most?

How nicely it eventually all fit together. At the end, I was able to model how the different strands of variation relate to each other by only changing a few constraints, and it was very much an "order out of chaos" moment.

How did the pandemic affect your work and research during the time of your PhD?

Luckily, all my data collection was done by that point. But the pandemic still very much affected the work. At the beginning, everything ground to a halt for a few weeks because I just couldn't concentrate with everything that was happening in the world. Then, it got better and I became a monk who was solitarily working away on the thesis. That was very productive. But it also had effects on my mental health (some good, more probably bad), some of which are still persisting, as is I think the case with everyone.

Paul Compensis (Associated with C07)



Title: [Differential object indexing in Bulgarian – The role of discourse prominence and predictability](#) (PDF available online)

Defensio: July 12, 2022

What surprised you the most?

That I ended up writing a completely different dissertation than I previously envisioned (probably this is quite common). Three years ago, I did not intend or imagine to write a prominence-related study but the empirical evidence of my experiments clearly suggested an explanation in terms of (discourse) prominence. When I finally realized that, I was quite lucky that I already had profound insights into prominence research thanks to the many activities of the CRC that I was able to join as an affiliated member. (Thanks a lot!!)

How did the pandemic affect your work and research during the time of your PhD?

As part of my PhD project, I was supposed to conduct research at the Cognitive neuroscience lab of the University of South Australia from April 2020 till October 2021. This was obviously very bad timing and I had to change my plans a lot. However, due to the situation, I unintentionally became occupied a lot with web-based experiments and this turned out to be quite fruitful for my work.

What's next?

Thanks to Petra Schumacher I got the chance to continue working at the University of Cologne for another couple of months. I'm looking forward to round off my amazing 8 years in Cologne by elaborating on some interesting projects and collaborations (such as next year's LingCologne2023 – Prediction in language).



Fahime Same (INF)

Title: Referring Expression Generation in Context: Combining Linguistic and Computational Approaches

Disputatio: July 12, 2022

What was the biggest challenge?

Well, obviously writing the dissertation was the biggest challenge :-)

On a more serious note, one of my biggest challenges was to overcome (or at least reduce) the insecurity I had about myself, my abilities, my work, and everything else. That's why it's so important to have people around you who have been (or are) in the same situation. Talking to them about your insecurities can

take a huge emotional burden off of you.

What surprised you the most?

A. how much your views on the topic you are working on can change over the course of your PhD.

B. A million ways of procrastination one can come up with!

C. Typos are endless (and nasty).

How did the pandemic affect your work and research during the time of your PhD?

Honestly, it was a blessing. Having a PhD to work on made the lockdown much more bearable. Also, knowing that you are not the only one stuck indoors on a beautiful, sunny spring day made writing the dissertation more bearable. Furthermore, I am a talkative person, so it was easier for me to concentrate when I had little contact with other people.

Frederike Weeber (C04)

Frederike Weeber defended her dissertation *The German indefinite pronoun ein(er). Interpretation and discourse linking* in July. She has recently taken up a position at the Cusanuswerk.



Anything new coming up? If you want to be featured in the next newsletter, please drop us a line at: ewindbel@uni-koeln.de (Eva Windbergs) or bkrukau1@uni-koeln.de (Britt Krukau) or tell us your news personally.

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