

### **Petra Schuhmacher – *Prominence, pronouns and processing***

The course introduces the notion of prominence as an organizational principle of language with a particular focus on personal and demonstrative pronouns, which are used to refer to entities that carry distinct prominence status. We review findings from pronoun resolution that highlight the interplay of multiple prominence-lending cues at the local (sentential) and global (discourse) level and we discuss the pronouns' role in the dynamic unfolding of the referential space.

### **Shannon Bryant – *The semantics of pronouns***

Pronouns play an important role in natural language, helping us communicate with one another quickly and efficiently. Despite their seeming simplicity, exactly how pronouns contribute to the interpretation of a sentence is an open question. Focusing on personal pronouns, this course will offer an introduction to several prominent approaches to the semantics of pronouns, including variable-based approaches, descriptive (E-type) approaches, and choice functional approaches. Discussion will be structured around the core phenomena of binding and coreference as well as well-known problem cases such as donkey sentences, paycheck sentences, and bathroom sentences. We will also consider the (possibly distinct) semantics of reflexive pronouns.

### **Heather Newell - *Pronominal Phonology: Modularity and the Interface***

This course will explore cross-linguistic tendencies in pronoun reduction. It will offer an overview of the particular challenge that accounting for pronoun realization poses via an examination of the various points at the phonology-syntax interface where theories/frameworks diverge. Reduction patterns in pronouns allow for an assessment of the predictions that different phonological/interface frameworks make, and how and whether they should be constrained by modularity.