Abstract

This SEEDS application requests resources to organize and publicize a day-long cognitive studies symposium for UM graduate students. The symposium will provide a forum for graduate students to present and exchange research on human cognition, perception, language and other topics in the cognitive sciences. The symposium will be organized by faculty volunteers from the newly-formed UM Cognitive Studies Network, a group of researchers from several different departments who share an interest in interdisciplinary research and teaching in cognitive studies. The symposium will help increase graduate student involvement in the Cognitive Studies Network, will help build connections among cognitive studies researchers across departmental boundaries, and will help lay the groundwork for a longer term interdisciplinary cognitive studies program at UM.

Activity Goals

The goals of this symposium are (1) to increase awareness of the new inter-departmental Cognitive Studies Network at UM, (2) to increase the level of graduate student involvement in the network, and (3) to promote interdisciplinary research in cognitive studies at UM. There are people in several departments across UM whose research and teaching has a significant cognitive studies component, but until recently these people have had no established forum for connecting with others outside their own departments. In order to address this need, I and other members of the departments of philosophy and psychology together established the UM Cognitive Studies Network in the spring of 2016. The network already has members from several departments, including (in addition to philosophy and psychology) computer science, anthropology, religious studies, political science, theatre arts and ecosystems science. We aim to have a regular exchange of ideas among people who study human cognition and experience from a variety of different perspectives, and to identify common research interests that can lead to future interdisciplinary projects and grants. This makes it vital for us to reach out to graduate students who are doing work in cognitive studies and get them involved in the network, since they are a central part of the research community doing cutting-edge work at UM. It is also important for us to reach out to such graduate students because we aim to establish a program in the near future that would make it possible to have a PhD concentration or earn a special certification in cognitive studies.

The symposium will help improve the academic environment at UM in several ways. It will provide young researchers at UM with opportunities for networking and research exchange, and will help them overcome the usual barriers that stand in the way of making contacts with people in other departments. It will also help encourage more graduate students to pursue research in cognitive studies by providing a forum for it at UM. The symposium will also help the network build momentum towards its goal of establishing a more formal and permanent cognitive studies program at UM, by demonstrating how much interest there is in cognitive studies here. Also, the symposium will be highly publicized, first through a university-wide call for papers and then with posters, campus newsletters, email announcements etc. This will bring the attention of the Cognitive Studies Network and its activities to the wider university community. There is a great deal of excellent cognitive studies work being done at UM, and yet it is one of the few universities of its caliber that does not have an established cognitive studies program. Anything we can do to increase the visibility of cognitive studies at UM is a step in the right direction.
Personal Goals

Much of my research in philosophy focuses on the interaction between language comprehension, reasoning and perception, and it is crucial for my work that I stay up to date on relevant work in psychology, linguistics and other branches of the cognitive sciences. It is also important for me that the results of my research are intelligible and valuable to the broader cognitive studies community, and not just to other philosophers in my specialized area. Therefore, it is vital for me that there is a thriving cognitive studies community at UM for me to interact with. I am also committed to building a strong record of teaching courses that approach the human mind and language from an interdisciplinary perspective, and a strong record of mentoring graduate students who share this approach in their doctoral research. The more interest there is in cognitive studies at UM, the more opportunities I will have to do this kind of teaching. The present proposal represents one of the steps I am taking to help bring these things about.

Budget & Justification

Materials for the symposium itself (printed programs, handouts, projection equipment etc.) will be contributed by the home departments of the three faculty organizers (myself and two other volunteers from the Cognitive Studies Network). A budget of $2000 is being requested for the following:

Publicity Costs $500
Symposium Dinner $1500

The publicity costs include two rounds of posters to be distributed in departments and around campus: a first round to issue a call for papers for the symposium and then a second round to announce the symposium itself. The total cost is an estimate based on prices listed at the UM Digital Media Lab. The total cost for the dinner is the estimated cost for eight graduate student presenters and the three volunteer faculty organizers at a suitable restaurant in the area (Coral Gables, South Miami or Coconut Grove).
CURRENT POSITION

2015 – present  Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of Miami

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

2014 – 2015  Research Fellow, Zukunftskolleg Interdisciplinary Research Institute, with co-appointment in Philosophy, University of Konstanz

2009 – 2014  Director, Emmy Noether Research Group Understanding and the A Priori at the University of Cologne & the University of Konstanz

2008  Research Fellow, Centre for Consciousness, Philosophy Program, RSSS, Australian National University

2006 – 2008  Assistant Professor, Department of Philosophy, University of California at Davis, USA

2005 – 2006  Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Centre for Consciousness, Philosophy Program, RSSS, Australian National University

2004 – 2005  Visiting Instructor, Philosophy Department, University of Colorado at Boulder, USA

ACADEMIC EDUCATION

2006  PhD Philosophy, Cornell University

1994  B.A. Philosophy, Lawrence University

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Philosophy of Language, Metaphysics, Epistemology
AREAS OF COMPETENCE

Philosophy of Mind, History of Analytic Philosophy, Logic

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

- *Reasoning: New Essays on Theoretical and Practical Thinking* (working title), (co-edited with M. Balcerak Jackson), under contract with Oxford University Press

JOURNAL ARTICLES

- “Number Word Constructions, Degree Semantics and the Metaphysics of Degrees,” *Linguistics & Philosophy*, conditionally accepted (with Doris Penka)
- “Reasoning as a Source of Justification,” *Philosophical Studies*, v. 164 (1), 2013 (with M. Balcerak Jackson)
- “Understanding and Philosophical Methodology,” *Philosophical Studies*, v. 161(2), 2012 (with M. Balcerak Jackson)
- “Truth vs. Pretense in Discourse About Motion (or, why the sun really does rise),” *Noûs*, v. 41(2), 2007
- “Beyond Logical Form,” *Philosophical Studies*, v. 132(2), 2007
- “Logical Form: Classical Conception and Recent Challenges,” *Philosophy Compass*, v. 1, 2006

REVIEWS


**Dissertation**

- “Species of Meaning: A Study of Semantic Kinds and Semantic Structure” (available on request)

**Submitted Work and Work in Progress**

- “Structural Entailment and Semantic Natural Kinds” (under review)
- “Semantics as a Guide to Ground” (in progress)
- “Against the Perceptual Model of Utterance Comprehension” (under review)
- “Model-Theoretic Semantics as Model-Based Science” (in progress)

**Awards and Honors**

- Heisenberg Stipendium, German Research Council, 2014 (€273,000 total, declined)
- Emmy Noether Research Group Grant *Understanding and the A Priori* (with M. Balcerak Jackson), German Research Council, 2009-2015 (€1,600,000)
- Co-Funding for Emmy Noether Group, University of Cologne, 2011-2013 (€90,000)
- Library Fund for the Emmy Noether Group (with M. Balcerak Jackson), University of Cologne Philosophy Faculty 2009 (€5,000)
- Cognitive Studies Summer Research Fellowship, Cornell University, 1999 (US$1,500)

**Selected Presentations (Last Five Years)**

- “Essentially Practical Questions” Workshop on Disagreement, University of Bonn, Autumn 2016
- “Semantics as a Guide to Ground” Semantics and Philosophy in Europe 8, Cambridge University, Autumn 2015
- “Semantics as a Guide to Ground” *Gesellschaft für Analytische Philosophie* 9, University of Osnabrück, Autumn 2015
- “Reconceiving Interpretational Validity” Logic Colloquium, University of Konstanz, Spring 2015
• “The Rational Requirements of Linguistic Understanding” Philosophy Department, University of Edinburgh, Spring 2015

• “Structural Entailment and Semantic Natural Kinds” Semantics Colloquium, Department of Linguistics, Johann Wolfgang Goethe-Universität Frankfurt am Main, Winter 2015

• “When Can Implies Ought: Cognitive Capacities and Rational Requirements” Konstanz Reasoning Conference, Summer 2014

• “Linguistic Solutions to Philosophical Problems?” Semantics and Philosophy in Europe 7, Humboldt University Berlin, Spring 2014

• “Structural Entailment and Semantic Natural Kinds” PhLing Seminar, Northwestern University, Spring 2014

• “What Does Linguistic Competence Rationally Require?” MIT Work in Progress Seminar, Spring 2014

• “Structural Entailment and Semantic Natural Kinds” MIT Logic, Language, Mind and Metaphysics Reading Group, Spring 2014

• “The Semantics of [X]-Constructions and the Nature of X” Yale University ELLMM City Reading Group, Spring 2014

• “Semantic Structure and the Structure of Rationality” Zukunftskolleg University of Konstanz, Autumn 2013

• “Conceptual Analysis, Verbal Disputes and Meta-metaphysics” Humboldt University Berlin, Autumn 2013

• “Structural Entailment and Semantic Natural Kinds” Workshop on Logicality, Lexical Meaning and Semantic Invariance, Universitat Pompeu Fabra (Barcelona), Spring 2013

• “Structural Entailment and Semantic Natural Kinds” University of Bristol, Winter 2013

• “Defusing Easy Arguments for Numbers” Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy, Fall 2012

• “Structural Entailment and Semantic Natural Kinds” Conference on Logical Form, Cambridge University, Fall 2012

• “Contrastive Focus and Cheap Arguments for Numbers” Semantics and Philosophy in Europe 5, University of Turin, Summer 2012

• “Reasoning as a Source of Justification” (with M. Balcerak Jackson) Bellingham Summer Philosophy Conference, Summer 2012
- “Two Types of Inference” (with M. Balcerak Jackson) University of Hamburg, Fall 2011
- “Are Ontological Debates Merely Verbal Disputes?” Workshop on Disagreement, University of Tartu, Fall 2011
- “Understanding, Knowing and Perceiving” PhilLang 2011 Conference, University of Lódz, Spring 2011
- “Understanding, Knowing and Perceiving” Understanding, Testimony and Communication Workshop, University of Cologne, Spring 2011

**ACADEMIC SERVICE**

**EDITORIAL AND REFEREE ACTIVITIES**
- Referee for *Australasian Journal of Philosophy, Canadian Journal of Philosophy, Dialectica, Disputatio, Erkenntnis, Mind, Noûs, Pacific Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Psychology, Philosophical Quarterly, Philosophical Studies, Philosophy Compass, Synthese*
- Referee for *Oxford University Press*
- Editor of PhilPapers categories *Semantics, Semantic Phenomena and Logical Form*
- Referee for the Florida Philosophical Association
- Referee for the Research Foundation Flanders
- Editor of *Semantics and Linguistic Theory XII*, CLC Publications 2002

**ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES**
- Co-founder and co-organizer of the *UM Cognitive Studies Network*, 2016-present
- Organizer of *Semantic Pluralism Workshop*, Konstanz, 2015 (with M. Balcerak Jackson)
- Founder and co-organizer of the *Zukunftskolleg Working Group on the Foundations of Semantics*, 2013-present
- Organizer of the *Konstanz Reasoning Conference*, Konstanz, 2014 (with M. Balcerak Jackson)
- Organizer of *Emmy Noether Speaker Series*, Cologne, 2011-2013
- Organizer of *Author Meets Critic Conference with David Chalmers*, Cologne, May 2013
Seminar on Dual Careers in Academia for the *Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes* (with M. Balcerak Jackson), Frankfurt, 2013

Organizer of *The Epistemology of Philosophy Conference*, (with M. Balcerak Jackson), Cologne, June 2011

Organizer of *Understanding, Testimony and Communication Workshop*, (with L. Dänzer), Cologne, March 2011

Seminars on the Emmy Noether Research Program for the *Studienstiftung des Deutschen Volkes* (with M. Balcerak Jackson), Düsseldorf, 2011

Organizer of *Surrogate Reasoning in Science and Philosophy Workshop*, (with D. Stoljar, M. Weisberg and M. Balcerak Jackson), ANU, Aug 2010

Organizer of *Research Workshop with Scott Soames* (with Emmy Noether Group), Cologne, May 2010

Organizer of *Issues in Philosophical Methodology Workshop* (with M. Balcerak Jackson), July 2009

Co-founder and co-organizer of the Departmental Research Workshop, University of California at Davis, 2006-2008

**DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE**

- Faculty Coordinator for Graduate Student Research Workshops, University of Miami, 2015-present
- Zukunftscolleg Fellowship Selection Committee, 2014-2015
- Board of Directors of the Philosophy Department, University of Cologne, 2011-2013
- Hiring Commission for Junior Professorship in Music Ethnology, University of Cologne, 2011
- Colloquium Committee Faculty Advisor, University of California at Davis, 2006-2008
- Teaching Assistant Visitation Committee, University of California at Davis, 2006-2008
- Presenter at Training and Information of Pedagogical Salience Workshops, University of California at Davis, 2006-2008
- Academic Senate Representative, University of California at Davis, 2006-2008
- Letters and Sciences Assembly Representative, University of California at Davis, 2006-2008
**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

**PHILOSOPHY OF LANGUAGE**

- *Introduction to Semantics & Pragmatics* (University of Miami, Autumn 2016)
- *The Philosophy of Language* (University of Miami, Spring 2016)
- *Doctoral Seminar on Foundational Issues in Natural Language Semantics* (University of Miami, Autumn 2015)
- Dissertation Committee for Amanda McMullen, thesis on semantics & pragmatics of slurs (University of Miami, 2015-present)
- Dissertation Committee for Seong Oh, thesis on linguistic competence (University of Miami, 2015-present)
- *Possible World Semantics in Language, Mind and Epistemology* (with M. Balcerak Jackson, University of Konstanz, Winter 2014/2015)
- *Problems in the Philosophy of Language* (University of Konstanz, Winter 2013/2014)
- *Problems in the Philosophy of Language* (University of Cologne, Winter 2012/2013)
- *Doctoral Tutorials on Formal Semantics* (University of Cologne, 2012-2013)
- *Introduction to the Philosophy of Language* (University of Cologne, Winter 2009)
- *Foundations Seminar in Philosophy of Language* (with Berit Brogaard, Australian National University, Summer/Fall 2008)
- *Semantics and Pragmatics* (UC Davis, Spring 2008)
- *Two-Dimensional Semantics* (UC Davis, Spring 2007)
- *Doctoral Tutorial on Analyticity* (UC Davis, Fall 2007)
- *Philosophy of Language* (UC Boulder, Fall 2004)
- *Communication and Thought* (Cornell University, Fall 2002)

**EPistemology**

- *Seminar on Inferential Justification* (with M. Balcerak Jackson, University of Cologne, Winter 2010/2011)
• *The Philosophy of Philosophy* (with M. Balcerak Jackson, University of Cologne, Summer 2009)

• *Seminar on Semantic Accounts of the A Priori* (UC Davis, Winter 2008)

**METAPHYSICS**

• Dissertation Committee for Wei Huang, thesis on higher-order grounding (University of Miami, Autumn 2015-present)

• *Introduction to the Philosophy of Mathematics* (University of Konstanz, Summer 2015)

• *Seminar on Meta-metaphysics* (University of Cologne, Winter 2009/2010)

• *Doctoral Tutorial on Meta-metaphysics* (UC Davis, Spring 2007)

• *Metaphysics of Color* (UC Boulder, Spring 2005)

**LOGIC**

• *Formal Logic*, undergraduate/graduate course in modal logic (University of Miami, annually since 2016)

• Dissertation Committee for Iago Francisco, thesis on the knowability paradox (University of Miami, Autumn 2015-present)

• *Doctoral Tutorials on Logic* (University of Cologne, 2012-2013)

• *Intermediate Logic* (UC Davis, 2007-2008)

**MISCELLANEOUS**

• *Introduction to Philosophy* (University of Miami, Autumn 2015)

• *Introduction to Philosophy* (UC Davis, 2007-2008)

• *Introduction to Philosophy* (UC Boulder 2004-2005)

• *Contemporary Philosophical Issues in Film* (Cornell University, Fall 2000)

**LANGUAGES**

• English (native tongue)

• German (very good, CEFR Level C1)

• Spanish (basic knowledge)