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EMPLOYMENT

Postdoctoral Researcher in Semantics, Heinrich-Heine-Universität Düsseldorf, Germany

– October 2014 - Present

Project: Frame Based Approaches to Countability, part of the CRC 991 project:
“The Structure of Representations in Language, Cognition, and Science”.

PI: Prof. Hana Filip

Graduate Teaching Assistant, King’s College London, UK

– October 2010 - September 2014

EDUCATION

King’s College London, United Kingdom

– Ph.D., Philosophy, December 2013

Dissertation: Vagueness, Communication, and Semantic Information

Supervisors: Shalom Lappin (primary), Mark Textor and Ruth Kempson (secondary)

University of Helsinki, Finland

– M.A., Theoretical Philosophy (*eximia cum laude approbatur*), July 2007

Dissertation: Indicative Conditionals: Assertion, Truth-Conditions and Classification

Supervisors: Ahti-Veikko Pietarinen

University of Manchester, United Kingdom

– B.A. (hons), First Class, Philosophy, June 2004

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

- Sutton, P. R. 2018. Probabilistic approaches to vagueness and semantic competency. *Erkenntnis* 83(4): 711-740.
- Sutton, P. R. and H. Filip. 2017. Individuation, reliability and the mass/count distinction. *Journal of Language Modelling* 5(2): 303-356.
- Sutton, P. R. and Filip, H. 2016. Mass/count variation, a mereological, two-dimensional semantics, in Rothstein, S. & J Škilters (Eds.), *The Baltic International Yearbook of Cognition, Logic and Communication*, Vol. 11. New Prairie Press.

Peer-reviewed book chapters

- Sutton, P. R. and Filip, H. 2017. A probabilistic, mereological account of the mass/count distinction, *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*, Vol. 10148, pp. 146-170. Springer.
- Sutton, P. R. 2015. Towards a probabilistic semantics for vague adjectives. In H. Zeevat and H-C Schmitz (eds.) *Bayesian Natural Language Semantics and Pragmatics*, pp. 221-246, Springer.
- Sutton, P. R. and Filip, H. 2016. Countability: Individuation and Context. In: A. Foret, G. Morrill, R. Muskens, R. Osswald, and S. Pogodalla (eds.) *Formal Grammar: Revised and selected papers from FG2015 and FG 2016, LNCS 9804*, pp. 290-305, Springer.

Proceedings papers for peer reviewed conferences

- Erbach, K., P. R. Sutton, H. Filip, & K. Byrdeck. 2017. ‘Object Mass Nouns in Japanese’. In: A. Cremers, T. van Gessel, & F. Roelofsen eds. *Proceedings of the 21st Amsterdam Colloquium*. pp. 235-244.
- Filip, H. & P. Sutton. 2017. ‘Singular Count NPs in Measure Constructions’. In: D. Burgdorf, J. Collard, S. Maspong & B Stefánsdóttir, *Semantics and Linguistic Theory 27*, University of Maryland, College Park, USA. pp. 340-357.
- Sutton, P. & H. Filip. 2018. Restrictions on Subkind Coercion in Object Mass Nouns. In R. Truswell, C. Cummins, C. Heycock, B. Rabern, and H. Rohde (eds.), *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 21*. University of Edinburgh. pp. 1195-1213
- Sutton, P. R. and Filip, H. 2016. Vagueness, overlap, and countability. *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 20*, University of Tübingen. pp. 730-747.
- Sutton, P. R. and Filip, H. 2016. Counting in context: Count/mass variation and restrictions on coercion in collective artifact nouns. *Semantics and Linguistic Theory* 26:350-370.

Articles and book chapters forthcoming

- Erbach, Kurt, Peter R. Sutton & Hana Filip. 2019 accepted. Bare nouns and the Hungarian mass/count distinction. appear in the Springer LNAI Series in the beginning of 2019.
- Burnett, H., and P. R. Sutton. 2018, forthcoming. Vagueness. in L. Matthewson, C. Meier, H. Rullman and T.E. Zimmermann. *Blackwell Companion to Semantics*. Wiley Publishing.
- Sutton, P. & H. Filip. 2019. Coercion: container, contents and measure interpretations.

Forthcoming in Oslo Studies in Language (OSLa).

Taylor, S. & P. R. Sutton. 2018, Accepted. A frame-theoretic model of Bayesian category learning. In S. Löbner, T. Gamerschlag, T. Kalenscher, M. Schrenk & H. Zeevat (eds.), *Cognitive Structures – Linguistic, Philosophical, and Psychological Perspectives*, Dordrecht: Springer.

PhD Thesis

Sutton, P. (2013). *Vagueness, communication and semantic information*. PhD Thesis, King's College London.

TALKS

Invited Talks

- *Prototypes as Bayesian Networks*. Probabilistic Approaches to (Prototype) Concepts Salzburg, 12th September, 2017
- *Restrictions on subkind coercion in object mass nouns*. University of Göttingen, Department of Philosophy Mittel-bau Koloquium 12th June, 2017
- *Restrictions on subkind coercion in object mass nouns*. Linguistischer Arbeitskreiss (LAK), University of Cologne, 9th November, 2016
- *Probabilities and Prototypes*. Workshop on Word Meaning, Cumberland Lodge, 23rd-24th April, 2014
- *it Motivating a Probabilistic Semantics*. Ruhr-Universität Bochum, Research Colloquium 24th October, 2013
- *The Role of Uncertainty in Semantics*. University of Göttingen, Department of Philosophy Mittel-bau Koloquium 24th January, 2013

Selected Conference Talks

In chronological order:

- *Object Mass as an Arbiter for the Mass/Count Category. The Count-Mass Distinction – A Linguistic Misunderstanding?*, May 2018 (with Erbach, K., H. Filip & K. Byrdeck.)
- *Coercion: container, contents and measure readings. The Count-Mass Distinction – A Linguistic Misunderstanding?*, May 2018 (with H. Filip).
- *Stochastic frames*. Presented at: – *Uncertainty in Meaning and Representation in Linguistics and Philosophy*. Jelenia Góra, February, 2018. – *Workshop on Records, Frames, and attribute spaces*. Berlin, March, 2018 – CRC 991 Colloquium. HHU Düsseldorf. April, 2018 (with Schuster, A., Strößner, C., & Zeevat, H.).
- *Object Mass Nouns Nouns in Japanese. One-to-many relations in morphology, syntax, and semantics workshop at The 40th Annual Conference of the German Linguistic Society*, March 2018. (with Erbach, K., H. Filip & K. Byrdeck.)
- *Hungarian measure phrases, bare singular nouns, and mass/count distinction*. TbilLLC 2017: The 12th International Tbilisi Symposium on Language, Logic and Computation, Lagodekhi, Georgia. (with K. Erbach & H. Filip), September 2017.

- *Vagueness as the product of learning over a noisy channel*. TbiLLC 2017: The 12th International Tbilisi Symposium on Language, Logic and Computation, Lagodekhi, Georgia. September 2017.
- *Singular Count NPs in Measure Constructions*. Semantics and Linguistic Theory 27. University of Maryland, College Park, May 2017. (With H. Filip)
- *Object Mass Nouns in Japanese*. The 18th Szklarska Poreba Workshop, March 2017. (with K. Byrdeck, K. Erbach & H. Filip)
- *Mass-to-count coercion in ‘granular nouns’*. Workshop on Coercion Across Linguistic Fields. The 39th Annual Conference of the German Linguistic Society, Saarbrücken, Germany, March 2017.
- *Mass/Count Variation: A Two-Dimensional Semantics*. Colloquium talk. Department of Philosophy, Linguistics and Theory of Science, University of Gothenburg, Sweden. November, 2016.
- *A probabilistic, mereological account of the mass-count distinction*. CLASP Seminar, University of Gothenburg. November, 2016. (With H. Filip.)
- *Restrictions on subkind coercion in superordinate object mass nouns*. Sinn und Bedeutung 21, University of Edinburgh, September 2016. (With H. Filip.)
- *Countability: Individuation and Context*. Formal Grammar 21. University of Bolzano/Bozen. August 2016. (With H. Filip.)
- *Count/Mass Variation and Constraints on Mass-to-Count Coercion*. Countability Workshop, Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf, June 2016. (With H. Filip.)

DISSERTATION SUPERVISION

Bachelor’s dissertations:

- Lisa Hofmann *How far can we deviate from the performative formula?*. Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf, 2015.
Secondary supervisor.

Master’s dissertations:

- Fabian Koglin. *Personal proper names in definite article phrases in German*. Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf, 2017.
Primary supervisor.

PhD Committees:

- Kathrin Byrdeck. Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf. Started 2017.
Third supervisor (Postdoc committee member).
- Kurt Erbach. Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf. Started 2016.
Third supervisor (Postdoc committee member).
- Samuel Taylor. Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf. Started 2015.
Third supervisor (Postdoc committee member).
- Vasiliki Tsouni. Heinrich Heine University, Düsseldorf. Started 2016.
Third supervisor (Postdoc committee member).

SCHOLARSHIPS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANT APPLICATIONS

Germany

- Emmy Noether Programme (Applied) - 2017. I applied for a four year grant funded by the German Research Foundation, (DFG)

United States

- Norman-Malcolm Fellowship - Autumn 2012, Visiting Fellowship, Cornell University. Maintenance and travel costs. Value: approx. \$13,000

United Kingdom

- AHRC Full Scholarship, Autumn 2010 - Summer 2012. Maintenance and tuition fees. Value: approx. £35,000
- Sorabji Graduate Bursary, Autumn 2009. Value: £1000

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Journal Reviewer:

Abstracta – Erkenntnis – Glossa – Journal of Semantics – Linguistics and Philosophy – The Baltic International Yearbook of Cognition – Logic and Communication – Topics in Cognitive Science

Conference Reviewer:

Formal Approaches to Slavic Linguistics (FASL) – North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics (NAACL) – Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) – Sinn und Bedeutung

Memberships:

The British Philosophical Association
The German Association for Linguistics (DGfS)

TEACHING

Summer/Winter Schools

- Winter 2018: Invited lecturer: Barcelona Winter school on Semantics. Vagueness and ambiguity.
- Summer 2016: ESSLLI 2016. Counting and measuring (with H. Filip)

Teacher/Examiner, HHU Düsseldorf:

- Spring 2018: Seminar on Vagueness in Natural Language
- Winter 2016/17: Seminar on Probability theory in Semantics and Pragmatics
- Spring 2016: Seminar on counting and measuring (with H. Filip)
- Winter 2015/16: Seminar on counting and measuring (with H. Filip)
- Spring 2015: Master's in Linguistics Colloquium.

Invited Lecturer, HHU Düsseldorf:

- Winter 2015: Lecture on the logics of vagueness.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, KCL:

- 2013-14: Logic and Language, Foundations of Analytic Phil., Phil. of Mind.
- 2012-13: Topics in Phil. of Language, Formal Semantics.
- 2011-12 Phil. of Mind, Formal Syntax, Formal Semantics.
- 2010-11 Elementary Logic.

Seminar Teacher, Helsinki:

- 2006-07: Intermediary Seminar in Phil. of Language,
Intermediary Seminar in Phil. of Science.
- 2005-06: Preparatory Seminar in Phil. of Language.

Teaching Awards

- Nominated, KCL School of Arts and Humanities Teaching Excellence Award 2011-2012
- Honourable Mention, KCL Philosophy Teaching Tutor Award 2011-2012 & 2010-2011

WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

- The 20th Szklarska Poreba Workshop on the roots of pragmasemantics, March 2019. (Chair)
- Cognitive Structures: Linguistic, Philosophical and Psychological Perspectives, the biannual conference of the Collaborative Research Centre 991. Düsseldorf, September 2018.
- Applications of Probability Theory in Linguistics (APT-Ling). Workshop at the 40th annual conference of the German Association for Linguistics (DGfS). Stuttgart, March 2018.
- The 19th Szklarska Poreba Workshop on the roots of pragmasemantics. March 2018. (Chair)
- The 18th Szklarska Poreba Workshop on the roots of pragmasemantics. March 2017
- The 17th Szklarska Poreba Workshop on the roots of pragmasemantics. March 2016
- Incrementality in Linguistic and Musical Interaction, King's College London. 30th-31st March 2011

PHD THESIS ABSTRACT

To be learnable, words must contribute something that is pretty stable across contexts. But equally, words must also be flexible enough to be able to stretch, in a principled way, to cover new cases. Similarly, to be effective for communication, the information that words encode must be robust enough and flexible enough to help us achieve a wide variety of goals. It is argued that truth conditions, and information understood in terms of truth conditions, cannot satisfy these requirements. A replacement for the truth conditional model is suggested based on a statistically grounded conception of semantic information. Informally, this can be understood in terms of reasonable expectations (what it is reasonable to believe, given the words that were used). Formally, this semantic information is captured using probabilistic and information theoretic tools. Vagueness, understood in terms of borderline cases, is argued to be a byproduct of making the above learning and communication requirements central. Vagueness, understood as our ability to be vague with words, is given an information theoretic explanation. Finally, the account is defended with respect to some of the philosophical problems and puzzles found in the vagueness literature.