

Expressing the use-mention distinction: An empirical perspective

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Workshop description

In a quotation like in “*Berlin*” has two syllables, a linguistic shape is mentioned in a rule-like fashion, in this case the shape of the name of Germany’s capital. While studying the distinction between the standard denotational use of an expression and mentioning it has a long tradition, the mechanisms of how mentioning is explicated in an utterance are not fully understood yet. Our workshop examines the linguistic inventory language users rely on to signal mentioning in an utterance with a focus on areas relating to the interface between semantics and pragmatics and the pairing between form and function, sign language and gesture as well as information structure. Empirically working researchers from various fields investigate phenomena related to different types of quotation ranging from pure and scare quotation to direct and mixed quotation with the aim to contribute to the debate about the nature of the use-mention demarcation.