Questions in Discourse

Introduction

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Overview

- What is a research network?

- Aims

- Program

- Other information

What is a research network

- Scientific networks offer young researchers the opportunity to engage in scientific exchange and cooperation on topics of common interest.

- A network consists of a group of people, who, over a defined period of up to three years, will jointly work on a research topic to attain a specific outcome.

- Network members may include young as well as senior researchers from Germany or from abroad.

Aims

- Investigate the role of questions in the interpretation of natural language:
  - information structure
    - focus/topic/QUD
  - discourse structuring
    - discourse particles, projection
  - formal modeling of questions
    - implicit, explicit, embedded, concealed etc.
- Achieve some consensus.

Practical aims

1. Documented results in a set of joint publications.

2. One or more large theoretical papers on each of the topics discussed. Possibly as target articles.

3. A number of papers on particular empirical phenomena in which questions in discourse are used as a tool for semantic/pragmatic analysis.

4. A special issue of a major international journal.

Practical Aims

- Identify areas in need of further theoretical and/or empirical inquiry
- Create joint projects resulting in grant proposals

Program

1. Introductory meeting: Questions and information structure
    (invited: Manfred Krifka, Daniel Hole)
2. Workshop: Questions and information structure. Paris September
3. Introductory meeting: Questions and discourse structure
    (invited: Nicholas Asher, Hans Kamp)
    Potsdam: 11-12.03.2012
4. Workshop: Questions and discourse structure
5. Introductory meeting: Implicit and explicit questions
    (invited: Jeroen Groenendijk, N.N.)
6. Workshop: Implicit and explicit questions

Program

- Introductory meetings:
  - Round table discussions with position statements of senior researchers
  - Some short talks
  - Invited talks
  - Suggestion: attach these meetings to network-workshops which are part of DGfS
  - Members should apply for and organize these workshops

Program

- Workshops:
  - Every member should have the possibility to give long (60+30) talks about the relevant research conducted.
  - Two invited talks: plenary decision who to invite.
  - One or two days attached to SuB

Other

- Talks should be announced 3 month prior to the beginning of the workshop or introductory meeting.

- The respective senior members are invited to give position statements at introductory meetings.

- Everyone should book flights and hotels on their own.
  - A limit for hotel costs will be given according to DFG guidelines.

Other

- Any member is allowed to invite non-members (e.g. interested phd or master students) to the network meetings.
  - However funding for non-members is not provided.
  - The participation of non-members should be announced to everyone.
  - Should non-members participate at/observe the round table discussions.
- Apart from this: the meetings are not public.

Other

- Thanks to Ede Zimmermann and his secretary for helping organizing this meeting.

- We hope to have learned from the ogranizational issues of this session.