



SOCIAL MEANING AND GRAMMAR

University of Zurich/Room KO2-F-152

February 10-11, 2026

Organizers: Laura Reimer & Andreas Trotzke

February 10, 2026

09:30 - 10:30	Elin McCready <i>Self-locating in social space</i>
10:30 - 11:00	Ruon Wang <i>Negative politeness two ways: The convergent pronominals of politeness and contempt</i>
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 - 12:00	Andreas H. Jucker <i>From supplication politeness to non-imposition politeness: The pragmatization of please in the nineteenth century</i>
12:00 - 12:30	Regine Eckardt <i>The socio-pragmatics of German du/ihr - Sie</i>
12:30 - 13:00	Taylor Martinez & Kyle Rawlins <i>Weakened Dogwhistles</i>
13:00 - 14:30	Lunch break
14:30 - 15:00	Elsi Kaiser, Claire Benét Post, Deborah Ho, Haley Hsu, Meona Khetrapal, Madeline Rouse & Sabrina Soto <i>Social meaning and linguistic form: Consequences for pronoun resolution</i>
15:00 - 15:30	Nico Lehmann <i>The impersonal use of second person markers across registers in German and Yucatec Maya</i>
15:30 - 16:00	Baptiste Bersier, Diana Mazzarella & Sandrine Zufferey <i>Factors affecting the perception of criticisms in the workplace: A judgment study in French</i>
16:00 - 16:30	Coffee break



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16:30 - 17:00	Semra Kizilkaya <i>Social indexicality, grammatical function and regional variation of inshallah in German</i>
17:00 - 18:00	Marina Terkourafi <i>The meanings of social meaning</i>
19:00 -	Conference dinner

February 11, 2026

09:30 - 10:30	Paul Portner <i>Social relations as modal anchors</i>
10:30 - 11:00	Colin Davis & Hyewon Jang <i>Anti-honorific agreement in Korean: An experimental and theoretical investigation</i>
11:00 - 11:30	Coffee break
11:30 - 12:00	Anna Kocher <i>Experimenting on commitments and beliefs in Spanish</i>
12:00 - 12:30	Manfred Krifka <i>Mitigation and strengthening assertions and the social effects on speaker's reputation of trustworthiness</i>
12:30 - 13:00	Hanna Bazanova <i>Non-standard derivation of Russian feminines as inference of social meaning</i>
13:00 - 15:00	Lunch break + Poster session + Coffee break
15:00 - 15:30	Denise van Oers, Riccardo Giomi & Daniel Van Olmen <i>Insults as a sentence type</i>
15:30 - 16:00	Tobias Ungerer, Michael Pleyer, Stefan Hartmann & Theresa Matzinger <i>Social meaning and grammar in artificial language learning experiments: A case study on extravagance and conformity</i>
16:00 - 16:15	Break



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16:15 - 16:45

Ana Clara Polakof

The social meaning of pejorative demonstratives

16:45 - 17:45

Emma Moore

Meaning, markedness and the social life of syntax

17:45 - 18:00

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Summary and outlook

Posters

Marisa Brook

Traditions versus innovations: Inter-dialectal accommodation as social meaning in a small online group

Jordan Chark

Pushing the upper bound: Modified universal quantifiers and exception tolerance

Julia Demina

Indirect requests as grammaticized social updates: A cross-linguistic study

Chiara Diener & Andreas Trotzke

The German particle mal in interaction

Kurt Erbach

Gestures with social meaning

Rita Faria

The impoliteness of shifting forms of address

Sumedha Gupta

Allocutivity in Bangla: Particles, politeness and pragmatics

Rebecca Karrer

A distancing effect: Reframing the communicative function of the German werden-passive and its social dimension

S. Y. S. Kwok

Slogans 4 Social Meaning: The semantics and pragmatics of slogans

Miriam Neuhausen

"Sometimes I'm kinda Dutchified, that's true, but I try to speak English": Lexicogrammar and belonging in Mennonite English

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Social Grammar: The acquisition path of speech act syntax