

CALL FOR PAPERS FOR THE THIRD MEETING OF

FORMAL WAYS OF ANALYZING VARIATION (FWAV3)

May 18-19, 2016, New York, NY, USA

BACKGROUND

Labov's pioneering study on contraction and deletion of the copula in African American Vernacular English (1969) and subsequent work on linguistic variation and change by e.g. Kroch (1989; 1994) and Anttila (1997) has drawn substantial attention to formal analyses of variable usage patterns in language. Research in language acquisition in the context of variable input also has led to insights into the nature of the grammatical systems that underlie childrens' hypotheses (see Yang 2002 and Miller & Schmitt 2012). Additionally, experimental data shows that discrete acceptability judgments in syntax, drawn from a large sample of speakers, also manifest regular quantitative patterns that can inform us about the nature of the grammatical system (see e.g. Bresnan and Ford 2010).

FWAV3

Now in its third year, the *Formal Ways of Analyzing Variation* (FWAV) workshop has been a venue for research which pursues formal analyses of linguistic variation, in all domains of grammar (phonology, morphology, syntax, and semantics). The purpose of FWAV is to bring researchers together in order to gain a better understanding of the mechanisms which underlie (and the relationship between) intra-speaker variability, language acquisition, and language change. In contrast with previous years (where FWAV was a one-day workshop integrated into a larger conference), this year's FWAV3 will be a stand-alone, 2-day conference.

Invited Speaker: Cristina Schmitt, Michigan State University

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite papers on all aspects of formal analysis of the mechanisms of language variation and change. Research which makes use of annotated historical and synchronic corpora, or the results of which are derived from experimentation, are particularly welcome. We seek papers which address one or more of the following questions:

- How are language variation and variability encoded in the linguistic system (e.g. multiple grammars, variable rules, etc.)?
- Can formal models of cross-linguistic parametric variation also deal with intra-speaker variability? Conversely, can formal models of intra-speaker variability make predictions regarding parametric variation?
- What do formal analyses predict to be possible or impossible, in terms of variation and trajectories of change? What are the limits of variation?
- How does variability in the input affect language acquisition? How do language processing systems deal with variability?
- What role does variability play in processes of grammaticalization?
- Is it possible to establish that apparent variants are truly grammatically functionally equivalent, for an individual speaker?
- How do we make the best use of statistical tools for formal linguistic analysis in this domain of research?

VENUE

FWAV3 is being organized jointly by the City University of New York (the College of Staten Island, Queens College, and The Graduate Center) and Michigan State University. The event will be held on May 18-19, 2016, at The CUNY Graduate Center, City University of New York, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York, NY, 10016.

ABSTRACT SUBMISSIONS

The organizers of FWAV3 invite abstracts for 20-minute talks (plus 10 minutes for discussion) on research related to the above description. All abstracts should be no more than two pages in length (including examples and references), in 12-point type, 8.5x11-inch page setup (= US Letter), with 1-inch margins, in .pdf format. Submissions are limited to one individual and one joint abstract per author.

Please note: Authors are asked to submit their abstracts through EasyChair, at:

<https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=fwav3>

Deadline for receipt of abstracts: Monday, February 29, 2016

Notification of acceptance: no later than March 20, 2016

Conference website: <http://fwav3.common.gc.cuny.edu>

Contact email: fwav3@msu.edu

Conference organizers:

Christina Tortora, City University of New York (College of Staten Island and The Graduate Center)
Alan Munn, Michigan State University
Bill Haddican, City University of New York (Queens College and The Graduate Center)

REFERENCES

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- Labov, William. 1969. Contraction, Deletion and Inherent Variability of the English Copula. *Language* 45: 715–762.
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