



Kontakt: Inken Armbrust

Telefon: +49 7071 29-77569

Mail: inken.armbrust@uni-tuebingen.de

www.ambiguitaet.uni-tuebingen.de

Tübingen, 11th February 2016

Call for Applications

In the interdisciplinary Research Training Group (RTG) 1808

“Ambiguity – Production and Perception”

Eberhard Karls Universität Tübingen offers **6 PhD Positions** (TV-L E13, 65%) from September 1, 2016, temporary employment for the first funding period until March 31, 2018 (a proposal for the extension of the funding is in preparation). The maximum period of employment is three years. As the University of Tübingen intends to increase the proportion of female employees in research and teaching, women are particularly encouraged to apply. The PhD-Students will be employed through the central administration of the University of Tübingen. Members of the research training group will be required to take their residence in Tübingen.

Application deadline: **Monday, May 16, 2016.**

Participating Disciplines:

English Literary Studies, English Linguistics, German Literary Studies, German Linguistics (Psycholinguistics), Legal Studies, Classical Philology, Psychology, General Rhetoric, Romance Linguistics, Protestant Theology (New Testament).

Doctoral students will enjoy excellent conditions in an interdisciplinary environment and will participate in a systematically structured curriculum, comprising project-oriented guidance in small teams as well as activities of the entire Research Training Group, including a practice-based programme. A visiting researcher programme will enhance international cooperation and exchange.

Summary

Ambiguity, defined as an expression or utterance that has two or more meanings, is a characteristic feature of language and communication. It is as relevant to the most ordinary situations of everyday life as it is to the most complex text productions. Accordingly, ambiguity has been a central topic of investigation in linguistics and in other disciplines concerned with the interpretation of language. These different approaches, however, have never been systematically brought together. In order to understand why communication may be successful in spite of or even because of ambiguity, why ambiguity may also cause its failure and what effects it has, the isolated approaches will have to be overcome.

It is the aim of the proposed Research Training Group (RTG) to show that by a collaborative approach of language-oriented disciplines new insights may be gained into the production and perception of ambiguity, i.e. when it comes into being and when it is resolved. The pursuit of this aim is based on the conviction that ambiguity is an excellent paradigm for developing new ways of collaboration between the various language-oriented disciplines.

The research programme links investigations into the language system as a field of linguistic research with investigations into the areas of discourse focused upon by the other disciplines. This will lead to innovative approaches: From a linguistic perspective, the challenge will be to represent (strategic) ambiguity in a broad range of texts, and from the perspective of the other disciplines, it will mean taking into account the role of grammatical structures for the interpretation of ambiguity. The programme rests on the assumption that both the production and the perception of ambiguity, as well as its strategic and non-strategic occurrence, can only be understood by exploring how these factors interact when ambiguity is generated and resolved. This may concern the speaker-hearer-interaction as well as long-term developments such as the strategic reinterpretation of canonical texts.

For additional informations see www.ambiguitaet.uni-tuebingen.de.

Application proceedings:

Applications (in German or English) including informative documents, a cover letter, a research proposal (maximum 5 pages), signed CV, copies of earned university degrees and transcripts of individual grades as well as a letter of recommendation and the names and email addresses of two referees (university professors) are to be sent **in digital form (one pdf document) by May 16, 2016** under the reference RTG "Ambiguity: Production and Perception" **to the speaker of the RTG, Professor Matthias Bauer: m.bauer@uni-tuebingen.de**.