

Workshop on Language Complexity as an Evolving Variable

[Front Page](#) [Venue](#) [Other Conference Information](#)

[Programme](#) [Abstracts](#) [Other Information about Leipzig](#)

Workshop on Language Complexity as an Evolving Variable

12-14 April 2007
Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology
Leipzig, Germany

Opening Address

Geoffrey Sampson
[A Linguistic Axiom Challenged](#)

[Invited Speakers](#)



[David Gil](#)

[Geoffrey Sampson](#)



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[Max Planck Institute for
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[Front Page](#)

[Venue](#)

[Other Conference Information](#)

[Programme](#)

[Abstracts](#)

[Other Information about Leipzig](#)

Programme

Thursday, 12 April 2007

0830 - 0900	Registration
0900 - 0910	Opening Remarks
0910 - 0950	<i>A linguistic axiom challenged</i> Geoffrey Sampson
0950 - 1030	<i>Cross-linguistic comparison of complexity – a pilot study</i> Östen Dahl
1030 - 1100	Refreshments
1100 - 1140	<i>Implicational hierarchies and grammatical complexity</i> Matti Miestamo
1140 - 1220	<i>Complex morphosyntactic features of nominal predicate constructions in Erzya</i> Rigina Turunen
1220 - 1300	<i>Is Basque a "complex" language?</i> Didier Bottineau
1300 - 1400	Lunch
1400 - 1440	<i>How Much Grammar Does It Take to Sail a Boat?</i> David Gil
1440 - 1520	<i>On the evolution of complexity - Sometimes less is more in East and mainland Southeast Asia</i> Walter Bisang
1520 - 1600	<i>How much grammar does a language need?</i> Dan Everett
1600 - 1630	Refreshments
1630 - 1710	<i>Orality (vs. literacy) as a dimension of complexity</i> Utz Maas
1710 - 1750	<i>Complexity between spoken and written varieties of a language</i> Giuliana Fiorentino

Friday, 13 April 2007

0950 - 1030

[Origin and maintenance of clausal embedding complexity](#)
Fred Karlsson

1030 - 1100

Refreshments

1100 - 1140

[Sociolinguistic typology and complexification](#)
Peter Trudgill

1140 - 1220

[Between simplification and complexification:
Non-standard varieties of English around the world](#)
Bernd Kortmann and Benedikt Szmrecsanyi

1220 - 1300

[Complexity trade-offs in core argument marking and size of speech community](#)
Kaius Sinnemäki

1300 - 1400

Lunch

1400 - 1440

[Measures of complexity from the point of view of first language acquisition](#)
Anna Babarczy

1440 - 1520

[Cognitive universals or linguistic universals:
Evidence from child language acquisition](#)
Eugenie Stapert

1520 - 1600

[Grammatical development during language acquisition](#)
Christophe Parisse

1600 - 1630

Refreshments

1630 - 1710

[An efficiency theory of complexity and related phenomena](#)
John A. Hawkins

Saturday, 14 April 2007

1030 - 1230

Business Meeting

1230 - 1400

Lunch

1400 - 1440

[Layering of grammar:
Vestiges of evolutionary development of syntax in modern-day languages](#)
Ljiljana Progovac

1440 - 1520

[Complexity in Associative Semantics](#)
Elena López Palma

1520 - 1550	Refreshments
1550 - 1630	<i>Why Does A Language Undress? Strange Cases In Indonesia</i> John McWhorter

Page location: <http://www.eva.mpg.de/~gil/complexity/programme.html>
Page last modified: 10 Apr 2007, London, UK

List of Abstracts

Anna Babarczy

[Measures of complexity from the point of view of first language acquisition](#)

Walter Bisang

[On the evolution of complexity — Sometimes less is more in East and mainland Southeast Asia](#)

Didier Bottineau

[Is Basque a "complex" language?](#)

Östen Dahl

[Cross-linguistic comparison of complexity – a pilot study](#)

Dan Everett

[How much grammar does a language need?](#)

David Gil

[How Much Grammar Does It Take to Sail a Boat?](#)

Giuliana Fiorentino

[Complexity between spoken and written varieties of a language](#)

John A. Hawkins

[An efficiency theory of complexity and related phenomena](#)

Fred Karlsson

[Origin and maintenance of clausal embedding complexity](#)

Bernd Kortmann and Benedikt Szmrecsanyi

[Between simplification and complexification: Non-standard varieties of English around the world](#)

Elena López Palma

[Complexity in Associative Semantics](#)

Utz Maas

[Orality \(vs. literacy\) as a dimension of complexity](#)

John McWhorter

[Why Does A Language Undress? Strange Cases In Indonesia](#)

Matti Miestamo

[Implicational hierarchies and grammatical complexity](#)

Christophe Parisse
[Grammatical development during language acquisition](#)

Ljiljana Progovac
[Layering of grammar: Vestiges of evolutionary development of syntax in modern-day languages](#)

Kaius Sinnemäki
[Complexity trade-offs in core argument marking and size of speech community](#)

Geoffrey Sampson
[A linguistic axiom challenged](#)

Eugenie Stapert
[Cognitive universals or linguistic universals: evidence from child language acquisition](#)

Peter Trudgill
[Sociolinguistic typology and complexification](#)

Rigina Turunen
[Complex morphosyntactic features of nominal predicate constructions in Erzya](#)

Workshop on Language Complexity as an Evolving Variable

[Front Page](#)

[Venue](#)

[Other Conference Information](#)

[Programme](#)

[Abstracts](#)

[Other Information about Leipzig](#)

Workshop Venue

Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology
Deutscher Platz 6
Leipzig, 04103, Germany

Further information on the MPI EVA is available [here](#).

Instructions on how to get to the MPI EVA are available [here](#).

Other Conference Information

Registration fee

The registration fee for the workshop is 50 Euros.

The fee should be paid at registration, on the morning of the 12th of April. Payment should be in cash only.

Food

Midmorning and midafternoon refreshments will be provided free. Modestly priced lunches will be available at the institute cafeteria.

A workshop dinner will take place on Friday the 13th of April. (Further information will be made available at a later date.)

Accommodation

Workshop participants will stay at the [Antikhotel am Völkerschlachtdenkmal](#)

(a complex hotel name for a workshop on complexity)

The hotel website contains a map showing the location of the hotel and the streets between the hotel and the Max Planck Institute.

To get to the hotel from the Leipzig Hauptbahnhof (main railway station), take tram no. 15, leaving from platform (gleis) 4 direction Meusdorf, and get off at the 7th stop, Altes Messegelände. To take the tram, you will need a "1 zone" (1.80 Euro) ticket, available from ticket counters or automats; do not forget to cancel the ticket as soon as you board the tram.

Please note that the hotel reception works only from 0800-1100 and 1800-2200. Participants arriving outside these times should contact the hotel in advance in order to make arrangements for obtaining the keys. Normally the hotel will give you a keyword/codeword to pick up the keys from little safe deposits.

To get from the hotel to the Max Planck Institute, you can either walk, about 10-15 minutes, or take tram no. 2, just one stop, to Deutsche Bücherrei, from which the Institute is a 5 minute walk.