

# **The alphabet of universal grammar**

**Thursday 4 - Friday 5 July 2019  
The British Academy, London**

**Convenors:**

**Professor Daniel Harbour**, Queen Mary University of  
London

**Dr Luisa Martí**, Queen Mary University of London

**Dr Hazel Pearson**, Queen Mary University of London

**Dr Coppe van Urk**, Queen Mary University of London



**The British Academy**

**Day 1: Thursday 4 July 2019**

08:45 *Registration and refreshments*

09:00 Professor Daniel Harbour, Dr Luisa Martí, Dr Hazel Pearson, Dr Coppe van Urk (Queen Mary University of London)  
Opening remarks

**Session 1: Foundations of feature theory**

Chair: Pietro Baggio (Queen Mary University of London)

09:15 Dr Theresa Biberauer (University of Cambridge)  
Features that are just right: A “Goldilocks” perspective on the building blocks of natural language

10:00 Professor Martina Wiltschko (The University of British Columbia, Canada)  
The functional spine as a bridge between categorisation and interaction

10:45 *Refreshments*

Chair: Ruonan Wang (Queen Mary University of London)

11:00 Professor Peter Svenonius (University of Tromsø – The Arctic University of Norway, Norway)  
Context-dependent feature interpretation

11:45 Professor Mark Baker (Rutgers University, USA)  
On the Alphabet of Structural Case: How do you spell Accusative, Ergative, and Genitive?

12:30 *Lunch and posters*

**Session 2: Features in the nominal domain**

Chair: Tom Trigg (Queen Mary University of London)

13:45 Dr Yasutada Sudo (University College London)  
The morphopragmatics of number

14:30 Dr Amy Rose Deal (University of California, Berkeley, USA)  
Person features and shiftiness

15:15 *Refreshments*

Chair: Matthew Hunt (Queen Mary University of London)

15:30 Professor Ora Matushansky (French National Centre for Scientific Research, France)  
Decomposing and recomposing gender features

- 16:15 Dr Patricia Cabredo-Hofherr (French National Centre for Scientific Research, France)  
Comparing plurality in the nominal and verbal domains
- 17:00 End of first day of conference

## Day 2: Friday 5 July 2019

08:30 *Registration and refreshments*

### **Session 3: Features in the Verbal Domain**

Chair: Lujain Alkhazy (Queen Mary University of London)

09:00 Dr Maria Luisa Zubizarreta (University of Southern California, USA)  
The evidential-temporal connection in a language without tense

09:45 Professor Lisa Matthewson (University of British Columbia, Canada)  
Temporal semantic atoms

10:30 *Refreshments*

Chair: Dr Luisa Martí (Queen Mary University of London)

10:45 Dr Peter Klecha  
What the semantics of embedded tense says about its morphosyntax

11:30 Dr Ana Arregui (University of Massachusetts, USA)  
Tense features across domains

12:15 *Lunch and posters*

### **Session 4: Prospects and Programmes**

Chair: Zheng Shen (Goethe Universität Frankfurt, Germany)

13:15 Dr Jenny Culbertson and Dr Mora Maldonado (University of Edinburgh)  
Testing the learnability of person/number systems

14:00 Dr Diogo Almeida (New York University Abu Dhabi, UAE)  
When an error is an error is an error is an error: the processing of subject-verb agreement violations

14:45 *Refreshments*

Chair: Dr Hazel Pearson (Queen Mary University of London)

15:15 Professor Angelika Kratzer (University of Massachusetts, USA)  
Deconstructing information structure

16:00 Professor Daniel Harbour, Dr Luisa Martí, Dr Hazel Pearson, Dr Coppe van Urk (Queen Mary University of London)  
The feature alphabet programme

17:00 End of conference