

What happens when syntax faces the sensori-motor systems, phylogenetically and ontogenetically

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This talk examines the nature of the interface between syntax and the sensori-motor systems, taking seriously: (i) minimalism and the rise of interface thinking, and (ii) biolinguistics and concerns of biological plausibility.

I begin by discussing the evolutionary implications of the encounter between syntax and the sensori-motor system, and then turn my attention to empirical issues touching on four interface phenomena: linearization, parameters, intonational phrasing, and cliticization, for which I intend to outline a coherent framework of investigation.