



Philosophische Fakultät



**LAK: Vera Hohaus (University of Manchester)**

*Implicit Superlatives*

Wednesday, 13 January, 4.00 p.m., Zoom

Against the morpho-syntactic typology of superlatives in Bobaljik (2012), Gorshenin (2012) and Coppock (2016), this talk develops a semantic typology of superlatives, taking as its starting point data from Samoan (Austronesian, Oceanic) and more than ten years of original fieldwork on the language. We suggest that the grammar of Samoan lacks a degree-based superlative operator, despite having a positive setting of the Beck et al. (2009)'s Degree Semantics Parameter. Instead, the language relies on implicit comparison (in the sense of Kennedy 2007) to express superlatives, recalibrating the interpretation of the Positive form with the help of context, focus and presuppositions.