



Philosophische Fakultät



CCLS: Judith Holler (Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics)

Coordinating minds with the body

Monday, 5 December 2022, 2:00 p.m., Zoom

Traditionally, visual bodily movements have been associated with the communication of affect and emotion. In recent decades, a sizable literature has demonstrated the substantial semantic and pragmatic contribution of visual signals that occur with speech. In this talk, I will throw light on the role of visual signals in face-to-face language use and processing during conversation. In doing so, I will focus on fundamental processes that are key in achieving mutual understanding in talk: producing recipient-designed messages, signalling understanding, trouble in understanding and repairing problems in understanding, and the communication of social actions (or “speech” acts). The bodily semiotic resources that speakers use in engaging in these pragmatic processes include a wide range of visual articulators, but in my talk I will focus on representational manual gestures and facial signals. Together, the results demonstrate that, in face-to-face conversation, bodily signals act as core devices for coordinating minds in interaction.