

**AG 8: Rhythm beyond the word****Ralf Vogel**

Universität Bielefeld  
 Fakultät für Linguistik und Literaturwissenschaft  
 Postfach 10 01 31  
 33501 Bielefeld  
 Tel.: 0521-1063673  
 ralf.vogel@uni-bielefeld.de

**Ruben van de Vijver**

Universität Potsdam  
 Institut für Linguistik  
 Karl-Liebkecht-Str. 24/25  
 14476 Potsdam-Golm  
 Tel.: 0331-9772926  
 ruben@ling.uni-potsdam.de

As a well-formedness condition on outputs, rhythm plays an important role in language acquisition, psycholinguistics, language change, phraseology, and, of course, in morphology and phonology. More recent research by a number of authors includes the following findings: rhythm affects the morphological process of truncations; rhythmic constraints affected the morpho-syntactic development of Early Modern English and Early Modern German; rhythm has an impact on word order in sentence production; the rhythmic characteristics of a language are learned extremely early in language acquisition; rhythm helps children acquire knowledge of the word order regularities in their language; in neurolinguistics, “syntactic” effects observed at the basal ganglia have been reinterpreted as emerging from the basal ganglia’s role as organising the rhythmic sequencing of cognitive and motor activities.

Such effects are unexpected in many current syntactic and psycholinguistic theories in which phonology only interprets syntactic structure. The impact of rhythm on the various subdomains of linguistics, as illustrated by the effects mentioned above, is not integrated in linguistic theory yet. To achieve this goal an exchange of data and ideas across the various linguistic subdomains is needed.

The goal of this workshop is therefore to bring together researchers who focus on the role of rhythm in various subdomains of linguistics. We invite contributions from scholars working in morphology, phonology and syntax, psycho- and neurolinguistics, aphasiology and language acquisition. Contributions should address one or more of the following questions – or any other question pertinent to the theme of the workshop:

- What is the role of rhythm in phonology above the word level?
- How is rhythm above the word level acquired?
- What is the role of rhythm in syntax and morphology, both synchronically and diachronically?
- What is the role of rhythm in psycho- and neurolinguistics?
- Which role does rhythm play in aphasic speech?
- How does rhythm affect speech perception?
- How can linguistic rhythm be detected and defined?
- Is rhythm really as fundamental for language as recent findings suggest?