Preface

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This long-awaited volume on bridging Formal and Conceptual Semantics is the final result of the successful BRIDGE Workshop held in Düsseldorf in 2014. The workshop gathered a number of distinguished researchers from formal semantics and conceptual semantics. We aimed to bring semanticists from two different “fashions” together and initiate a deeper conversation and collaboration between them instead of separating the two sides as competing views. The workshop provided a platform to further discuss parallelisms on specific semantic issues on the one hand and on the other hand to confront opposed claims from the two different perspectives. This volume contains a selected number of high-quality papers presented at the workshop featuring various approaches to meaning from linguistics, logic and philosophy of language.

In *LIVE MEANINGS* Paul Dekker argues for a collaboration between cognitive and model-theoretic theories regarding ‘meaning’. As he claims, ‘meanings’ – if they exist – are context or theory dependent artifacts, and the oppositions of the two aforementioned disciplines lead back to their “unrealistic preconception” and misunderstanding of the nature of ‘meaning’. The paper presents a theory-independent understanding of ‘meaning’ as part of a public conceptual space. While characterizing the various aspects of this conceptual space, different, previously antagonistic theories of ‘meaning’ are rather complementing each other.

The central focus of *KINDS, DESCRIPTIONS OF KINDS, CONCEPTS AND DISTRIBUTIONS* by Lousie McNally is the semantics of nominals. She presents an analysis connecting the distributional semantic representation with classical referential semantics in order to overcome the limitations of previous semantic approaches to kinds

and common nouns. The starting point of her discussion is the two-fold view on the semantics of common nouns: claimed to denote kinds according to one view, and to denote descriptions of kinds according to others. An opposition that appears in cognitive semantics approaches. McNally argues that kinds are bridging referential and conceptual approaches and makes a substantial step towards an analysis of this bridge.

Ralf Naumann in *DEPENDENCIES, SEMANTICS CONSTRAINTS AND CONCEPTUAL CLOSENESS IN A DYNAMIC FRAME THEORY* proposes a bridge between dynamic semantic frameworks and cognitive semantics. He proposes an analysis for the characterization of semantic relations between lexical items – a topic, he claims to be missing in formal semantic theories. Naumann's approach introduced here is based on Frame Theory extended with formal methods from Dependency Logic and belief theories.

In their paper, *WHAT COST NATURALISM?*, Martin Stokhof and Michiel van Lambalgen investigate a crucial question from the perspective of the philosophy of science. The core issue of their paper is the nature of linguistics in the broader context of (natural) sciences. They discuss notions like structural explanation, which provided the basis of earlier discussions between different linguistic theories. In their paper, Stokhof and van Lambalgen discuss various examples that illustrate the differences of views in philosophy of science.

In *MEASURING OUT THE RELATION BETWEEN FORMAL AND CONCEPTUAL SEMANTICS*, Tillmann Pross and Antje Roßdeutscher propose an analysis that can bridge the gap between formal and conceptual semantics, which they claim exists due to the different principles that derive sentence meaning (formal semantics / compositionally) and word meaning (lexical / conceptual semantics). They propose a logical form based framework, in which the above meanings are derived by the same principles. As an illustration of their framework, they provide an analysis of German spatial denominal prefix- and particle verbs.

The joint paper, *REPRESENTING LEXICON: IDENTIFYING MEANING IN USE VIE OVERSPECIFICATION*, by Henk Zeevat, Scott Grimm, Lotte Hogeweg, Sander Lestrade and E. Allyn Smith investigates the format of a formal account of the lexicon that should contain for each lexical items as many senses as possible. Their primary goal is to

solve the problem of how to predict the meaning of a lexical item in use. Their proposed approach is based on lexical decomposition with a distinctive way of overspecification in meaning, which is reduced the meaning in use in combination with the given context.

Natalia Zevakhina and Alex Dainiak, in *RUSSIAN PREDICATES SELECTING REMARKABLE CLAUSES: CORPUS-BASED APPROACH AND GRICEAN PERSPECTIVE*, present a study on Russian predicates that select exclamatives, or in their terms ‘remarkable clauses’. They discuss the distributional properties of such predicates from different perspectives. Based on cross-linguistic evidence, they argue for four conceptual classes of predicates that take exclamatives, and provide an explanation of the data in terms of the Gricean maxims.

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