

The Research Group *Interface Asymmetries*

is pleased to present

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Title: *Looking at the interface: two case studies*

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Recent developments in theoretical linguistics have created an exciting discussion on interfaces between levels of knowledge in the Grammar and levels of linguistic knowledge and other components of the cognitive system. In this talk I present two case studies which examine interface issues in two areas: the syntax-semantics interface and the syntax-parsing interface. In the first case study, I examine the structure of the standard degree in comparative constructions and argue that the structural difference between phrasal and clausal comparatives is crucial to explain the licensing of quantifiers in comparatives. In the second case study, I discuss the processing of empty categories, specifically Chinese null objects. Syntactically Chinese null objects have been analyzed as bound variables. Instead of waiting to the end of the sentence to integrate the null object, our subjects seem to interpret the null objects at the post-verbal position very rapidly online, which is similar to a filled gap effect in the processing of wh-questions.