

## Cognitive Linguistics (Networks)

### Collaborators:

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### Description:

The use of language centrally underpins social behaviour; correspondingly, the study of languages, and of how they express and shape socially constructed cultures, lies at the heart of 'core' Humanities disciplines. In turn, linguistic behaviour arises from the human capacity for language, understood as a distinctively human cognitive ability. This cognitive perspective on the study of language has generally had little interaction with the historical-cultural perspective, largely owing to the different competencies and methodologies involved. The Humanities Institute intends to take the lead in bridging this gap and integrate the study of human linguistic competence in the broader context of core Humanities disciplines. The investigation of language as a cognitive phenomenon is by itself a multi-disciplinary enterprise, open to psychological, neurological, computational, and philosophical perspectives. Theoretical linguistics acts as the linchpin between these approaches, providing a shared descriptive and analytical vocabulary, as well as providing the link with disciplines that study the historically conditioned social expressions of languages within and across cultures. By facilitating and promoting cross-fertilization and mutual dialogue between different disciplines and methodologies, all unified by a common focus on natural language and cognition, the HI recognizes the strategic importance of linguistic studies as a locus of interdisciplinary research, with an important role to play in the construction of a common European research area.

HI envisages facilitating the creation of an interdisciplinary research network in Cognitive Linguistics (CLRN), and later providing material and administrative support to its activities, including applications for funded research and the organisation of workshops and conferences. Funded activity could later include a structured PhD programme in Cognitive Linguistics hosted by HI, the first year of which consisting of interdisciplinary graduate modules.