

19th International Morphology Meeting

6–8 February 2020, Vienna

The next Viennese IMM will, in principle, be a thematically open venue hosting papers on all kinds of topics related to morphology. As usual, the meeting will focus on a main topic, which this time, will be “Morphology in contact” (see 1).

In addition, the meeting will host workshops up to a limit of twelve papers on any topic in morphology, excluding the meeting’s main topic (see 2).

Keynote speakers:

Johanna Laakso (University of Vienna)

Felicity Meakins (University of Queensland)

Lameen Souag (Lacito - CNRS)

Organizers:

Francesco Gardani (University of Zurich)

Franz Rainer (WU Vienna)

Conference manager:

Elisabeth Peters (WU Vienna)

Host:

WU Vienna

Welthandelsplatz 1

Vienna, Austria

Website:

<https://www.wu.ac.at/en/imm19/>

1. Call for Papers

Language contact and borrowing have traditionally been considered one of the principal sources of language change, along with sound change and analogy. Despite this fact, contact phenomena occurring in the area of morphology were long neglected. However, recent years have testified to an increasing interest in this area of investigation, and several publications reflect this tendency, such as *Copies versus cognates in bound morphology* (Johanson & Robbeets 2012), *Morphologies in contact* (Vanhove et al. 2012), and *Borrowed morphology* (Gardani et al. 2015).

The assumed rarity of morphological borrowing is reflected in all well-known borrowability scales (from Whitney 1881: 19–20 to Matras 2007). Most such scales assume that derivational affixes are more easily transferable than highly bound inflectional affixes, an asymmetry attributed by Weinreich to their different levels of entrenchment in the grammar: “the fuller the integration of the morpheme, the less likelihood of transfer” (Weinreich 1953: 35). This conviction seems to have been taken for granted in all subsequent work in the field without

undertaking any serious attempt to substantiate it quantitatively (a notable exception, based on a 100 language sample, is Seifart 2017). As a consequence, we do not yet have a precise idea of the global extent of the borrowing of morphological formatives and patterns (see Gardani 2018). In particular, the topic of compound borrowing is virtually uninvestigated (exceptions being Bağrıaçık et al. 2017 and Ralli in prep.).

Borrowed morphological formatives or patterns are often extracted from borrowed words or constructions, respectively, and adapted on the background of the morphology of the receiving language (Seifart 2015). Such processes of adaptation remain to be studied in detail even in well-researched European languages such as English, French, or German (cf. Müller et al. 2015, papers 90 to 96). In some cases, however, the borrowing process goes well beyond single formatives or patterns, affecting the morphological system as a whole. The result may be a morphology characterized by different strata, each with its specific properties. English (cf. the debate about “level ordering”), German (cf. Müller 2005), and Maltese (cf. Brincat & Mifsud 2016) are notorious in this respect, while the effect of massive borrowing (from Latin and modern European languages) is less visible in synchrony in the Romance languages. In extreme cases, stratification is so strict that split, compartmentalized, but co-existing morphological systems emerge, as has been shown for some Berber varieties (cf. Kossmann 2010). In still other cases, morphological compartmentalization concerns not only lexical-etymological stratification but also morphological subcomponents: for example, in the Australian bilingual mixed language Gurindji Kriol, Gurindji morphology dominates the nominal system, while English-derived Kriol morphology provides the verbal frame (Meakins 2011).

Because of its relative infrequency and of the different degrees of borrowability of subcomponents of morphology, morphological borrowing and in general, the effects of—both localized and areal—language contact on the morphology of a recipient language are an important source of evidence for morphological theory.

We welcome papers on both the main topic (“Morphology in contact”) and all kinds of topics related to morphology.

Important dates:

Submission of abstracts: from 31 March to 31 August 2019 (papers/posters)

PLEASE NOTE THAT THE SUBMISSION DEADLINE HAS BEEN EXTENDED TO SEPTEMBER 14.

Notification of acceptance for abstracts: 31 October 2019 (papers/posters)

Submission:

Submission of abstracts (starting 31 March): <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=imm19>

References

Bağrıaçık, Metin, Aslı Göksel & Angela Ralli. 2017. Copying compound structures: The case of Phrasiot Greek. In Carola Trips & Jaklin Kornfilt (eds.), *Further investigations into the nature of phrasal compounding* (Morphological Investigations 1), 185–231. Berlin: Language Science Press.

- Brincat, Joseph & Manwel Mifsud. 2016. Maltese. In Peter O. Müller, Ingeborg Ohnheiser, Susan Olsen & Franz Rainer (eds.), *Word-Formation. An international handbook of the languages of Europe*, vol. 5 (Handbücher zur Sprach- und Kommunikationswissenschaft 40.5), 3349–3366. Berlin & Boston: De Gruyter Mouton.
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- Johanson, Lars & Martine I. Robbeets (eds.). 2012. *Copies versus cognates in bound morphology*. Leiden & Boston: Brill.
- Kossmann, Maarten. 2010. Parallel System Borrowing: Parallel morphological systems due to the borrowing of paradigms. *Diachronica* 27(3). 459–487.
- Matras, Yaron. 2007. The borrowability of structural categories. In Yaron Matras & Jeanette Sakel (eds.), *Grammatical borrowing in cross-linguistic perspective*, 31–73. Berlin & New York: Mouton de Gruyter.
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- Ralli, Angela. in prep. Matter vs. pattern borrowing in compounding: Evidence from the Greek dialectal variety. In Francesco Gardani (ed.), *Borrowing matter and pattern in morphology*. Special Issue of *Morphology*.
- Seifart, Frank. 2015. Direct and indirect affix borrowing. *Language* 91(3). 511–532.
- Seifart, Frank. 2017. Patterns of affix borrowing in a sample of 100 languages. *Journal of Historical Linguistics* 7(3). 389–431.
- Vanhove, Martine, Thomas Stolz, Aina Urdze & Hitomi Otsuka (eds.). 2012. *Morphologies in contact*. Berlin: Akademie Verlag.
- Weinreich, Uriel. 1953. *Languages in contact, findings and problems*. New York: Linguistic Circle of New York.
- Whitney, William D. 1881. On mixture in language. *Transactions of the American Philological Association* 12. 5–26.

2. Call for Workshop Proposals

Workshops up to a limit of twelve papers are welcome on any topic in morphology, excluding the meeting’s main topic, viz. “Morphology in contact”.

We invite colleagues interested in organizing a workshop to apply for it via the following Easychair link: <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=imm19>

Important dates:

Submission of workshop proposals: open until 15 March 2019

Notification of acceptance for workshop proposals: 31 March 2019

Note that the evaluation of the abstracts submitted for acceptance in a workshop as well as the workshop’s deadlines will be in the responsibility of the workshop organizers. Thus, abstracts for workshops should not be submitted to the general Easychair page.