

Language and Virtual Space: Understanding how people describe the location of objects

University of East Anglia - School of Psychology

Qualification type: PhD
Location: Norwich
Funding for: UK Students, EU Students
Funding amount: £14,296 per year
Hours: Full Time

Placed on: 1st August 2016
Closes: 9th September 2016

Start date: 3rd January 2017

Supervisor: Professor Kenny Coventry

Abstract:

Understanding how one talks about where objects are located in real physical space offers a means to get at the mapping between language and the vision and action systems (e.g. Coventry & Garrod, 2004; Coventry, Griffiths & Hamilton, 2014; Levinson, 2003). With technological advances, people are increasingly interacting with virtual spaces across a range of platforms – from virtual reality to online gaming. This PhD area will ask whether communicating about object location in virtual space is the same as in real space, and also how language adapts to the changing environments virtual space can accommodate.

References:

- Coventry, K. R. & Garrod, S. C. (2004). Saying, seeing and acting. The Psychological semantics of spatial prepositions. Psychology Press.
- Coventry, K. R., Griffiths, D., & Hamilton, C. J. (2014). Spatial demonstratives and perceptual space: describing and remembering object location. *Cognitive Psychology*, 69, 46-70.
- Levinson, S. C. (2004). Space in language and cognition. *Explorations in cognitive diversity*. Cambridge University Press.

Details:

Applications for this studentship are invited from suitably qualified graduates. Candidates should typically hold, or expect to hold, the equivalent of a first degree with a minimum of 2:1 and a Master's degree with research methods training appropriate to the discipline, with a dissertation mark of at least 65%. Candidates will be interviewed in person, or via telephone or Skype, as part of the selection process. EU applicants may be required to provide evidence of competence in the English Language.

The studentship covers tuition fees (UK/EU rates), a tax-free maintenance grant (currently £14,296 per year), and a research training support grant. Please contact the Director of Postgraduate Research, [Dr Martin Doherty](mailto:martin.doherty@uea.ac.uk) (martin.doherty@uea.ac.uk), or the Principal Investigator, [Professor Kenny Coventry](mailto:coventry@uea.ac.uk) (coventry@uea.ac.uk), to discuss the project.

To discuss the application process, please contact the UEA PGR Office - email: pgr.enquiries.admiss@uea.ac.uk - tel: (01603) 591709. Please click to access the [application form to apply for a PhD](#) .