

19th International Morphology Meeting

6–8 February 2020, Vienna

Call for Papers

The next Viennese IMM will, in principle, be a thematically open venue hosting papers on all kinds of topics related to morphology. Also workshops up to a limit of twelve papers are welcome on any topic in morphology, excluding the meeting's main topic. This time, the main topic will be "Morphology in contact".

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.

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

Important dates:

Submission of workshop proposals: from 23 January to 15 March 2019
Notification of acceptance for workshop proposals: 31 March 2019 (papers/posters)
Submission of abstracts: from 31 March to 31 August 2019 (papers/posters)
Notification of acceptance for abstracts: 31 October 2019 (papers/posters)

Submission:

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

Website:

<https://www.wu.ac.at/imm19/19th-international-morphology-meeting/>

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