

ESF Short Visit Grant within 'Experimental Pragmatics in Europe'
Scientific Report to the ESF
recipient: Dr. Ulrich Sauerland
duration of travel: November 15 – 19, 2010

The grant funded a five day trip from Berlin to Cambridge, UK to work with Chris Cummins on the preparation of a publication reporting the research we conducted jointly.

I arrived in Cambridge around 3 pm on Monday, November 15 and held a three hour meeting to plan the visit with C. Cummins and we also made practical arrangements including a visitors office at the department. The next day, I worked from 9 to 6 to review and revise a current draft summarizing our results. On Wednesday, C. Cummins and I met for about 6 hours to discuss new results, weaknesses of the current draft, publications venues and other matters relating to the project. In addition, I started to rewrite of the introduction of the draft paper. On Thursday, I completed a rewrite of the introduction of the draft paper, and C. Cummins and I determined the further actions to be still necessary before submitting the draft to a journal.

The work focussed on the interaction of implicatures and granularity and the implications of the first two experiments we have completed and the ongoing third experiment. We took the decision to include also items with "less than" in the third experiment. In the second experiment, we found that unexpectedly the effect of granularity was more pronounced with "less than" than with "more than" in ANOVAs. However, we determined that the result was due to outliers which only occurred with the unbounded "more than" items, and discussed better statistical techniques to model the data. Finally, we determined to rewrite the introduction to better reflect the theoretical positions concerning "more than", "at least" and implicatures as well as these positions' historical development.