

Uncovering implicit meaning in textual data

In the context of LAND: Doctoral Programme in Applied Linguistics: Managing Languages, Arguments and Narratives in the Datafied Society

Details

- Dates: 17-18 October 2024
- Hours: (both days) from 9am to 3pm, including breaks
- Place: USI Università della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano, Room 354
- Lecturers:
 - Claudia Coppola (Post-doc Assistant at USI Università della Svizzera Italiana)
 - Guest Lecturer: Edoardo Lombardi Vallauri (Full Professor at Università degli Studi Roma Tre)
 - Guest Lecturer: Federica Cominetti (Research Fellow at Università degli Studi dell'Aquila)
- ECTS: 1,5

Description

Communication and language heavily rely on meanings conveyed in an implicit way. Indeed, detecting implicit meanings can be critical in reconstructing argumentative reasoning in different contexts (e.g. in the institutional, academic, business or cultural domain), shedding light on persuasive and manipulative discourse practices (e.g. political propaganda or advertising) through different modalities and platforms (e.g. conversation or social media interactions), enhancing data accuracy in experimental research and other types of empirical inquiries involving textual data and/or textual stimuli (e.g. interviews, surveys). The course addresses the understanding and uncovering of linguistic strategies conveying implicit meanings, which is crucial to ensure more fine-grained data analyses. Furthermore, the course highlights the need and the social usefulness of increased awareness on implicit meanings in different domains (e.g. education).

More in detail, the course will address these topics:

- evolutionary and socio-cognitive bases of implicit communication;
- implicit communication within pragmatics;
- different categories of implicit communication, and their linguistic triggers;
- implicitness, comprehension and persuasion across various text genres;
- annotation and measurement of implicit communication in real texts.

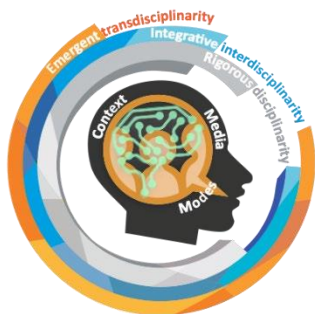
The final goal of this course is therefore to give doctoral students the theoretical foundations and the methodological tools to recognize and analyze what can be implicit in language, that they can apply for their PhD research in different text and discourse genres. The course will include both a theoretical and a hands-on session. During the latter, students will have the opportunity to do a sample analysis of their own data by using the software WebAnno. While the course is particularly addressed to novice PhD students who do not have a background in linguistics and pragmatics, it also provides advanced students with ample opportunity to refine and discuss their practices of implicit meaning reconstruction.

ECTS will be awarded upon active participation (at least 80%) throughout the whole course. In addition, prior to the course students will be given some mandatory preparatory readings, and will be asked to send textual data in advance to be analyzed in class; after the course they will be required to hand in a brief report summarizing and discussing their sample data analysis.

Participation in the course is free and open to all people interested. The LAND Doctoral Programme provides financial support to PhD students participating in the Programme and to other PhD students based in Switzerland.

Timetable

17 October 2024	
TIME	
9-10.30	Prof. Edoardo Lombardi Vallauri <i>Evolutionary bases and socio-cognitive features of implicit communication</i>
10.30-11	Coffee break
11-12.30	Dr. Claudia Coppola <i>Linguistic categories of implicit communication</i>
12.30-13.30	Lunch break
13.30-15	Dr. Claudia Coppola and Prof. Edoardo Lombardi Vallauri <i>Implicitness, comprehension and persuasion across different text genres</i>
18 October 2024	
TIME	
9-10.30	Dr. Claudia Coppola <i>Detecting implicit meanings in texts: methodological tools and challenges</i>
10.30-11	Coffee break
11-12.30	Dr. Federica Cominetti <i>Annotating implicit meanings using the software WebAnno</i>
12.30-13.30	Lunch break
13.30-15	Dr. Claudia Coppola and Dr. Federica Cominetti <i>Hands-on session</i>



- The [doctoral program](#) is a project funded by swissuniversities ([TP2: Cooperation between Swiss UASAs/UTEs and Swiss universities](#)) and supports the cooperative project between Università della Svizzera italiana (USI) and Zurich University of Applied Sciences (ZHAW), designed to
- Promote joint research between the different types of higher education institutions
 - Involve UASAs and UTEs in the qualification of their young talents and developing the range of possibilities for doctoral students with a UATAs of UTEs profile
 - Highlight the possibility for UASAs and UTEs graduates to pursue third cycle careers
 - Strengthen international competitiveness of Swiss higher education institutions and enabling them to attract young talents

Adapted from swissuniversities, accessed 20 May 2022,
<<https://www.swissuniversities.ch/en/topics/promoting-young-talent/p-1-third-cycle/tp2>>