

**A**fter three years of exploration into the issues of Polycategoriality, the POLYCAT group is pleased to announce its closing conference. Our international group and researchers worldwide will reunite in Paris to present findings from diverse languages from Amerindian, African, Austronesian, Papuan, to Indo-European, in order to provide a comparative and pluridisciplinary approach to fundamental issues in polycategoriality. Presentations will reflect different theoretical positions within various linguistic fields : morphosyntax, semantics, cognition, language acquisition, anthropological linguistics, and more.

#### Questions addressed include:

- Are lexical forms always specified for category? If so, at what level of grammatical representation?
- Do levels of category specification vary across languages?
- What are the semantic correlates of category indeterminacy or flexibility?
- Is a category label part of the mental representation of roots or words?
- What kind of evidence does morphosyntactic development in language acquisition provide for the study of category determination? Is there significant variation across languages?
- What is the relation between category acquisition and the acquisition of ontological types of events and entities?
- Does polycategoriality facilitate or otherwise affect lexical productivity and creativity?

#### Invited Speakers

Ruth BERMAN, Tel Aviv University ■ Melissa BOWERMAN, Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics ■ Denis CREISSELS, Université de Lyon II ■ Marianne MITHUN, University of California at Santa Barbara ■ Alain LEMARÉCHAL, Université de Paris VI ■ Eva SHULTZE-BERNDT, University of Manchester  
■ Round Table: Elsa GOMEZ-IMBERT, Institut Français d'Études Andines ■ Harriet JISA, Laboratoire Dynamique du Langage , CNRS & Université Lyon II ■ Claire MOYSE-FAURIÉ, LACITO, CNRS & Sorbonne-Nouvelle, Paris III

#### POLYCAT Speakers

Cédric BECQUEY, LPP, CNRS & Université Sorbonne-Nouvelle  
■ Richard CARTER, Institut Jean-Nicod, CNRS, EHESS & ENS ■ Bruna FRANCHETTO, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro  
■ Françoise KERLEROUX, MoDyCo, CNRS & Université de Paris Ouest ■ Alain KIHM, Laboratoire de Linguistique Formelle, CNRS & Université Paris-Diderot ■ Ximena LOIS, Institut Jean-Nicod, CNRS, EHESS & ENS ■ Barbara PFEILER, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México ■ Marcia HAAG, Oklahoma University ■ Francesca MERLAN, Australian National University ■ Aurore MONOD BECQUELIN, LESC, CNRS & Université de Paris Ouest  
■ Christophe PARISSÉ, MoDyCo, CNRS & Université de Paris Ouest ■ Mara SANTOS, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro ■ Valentina VAPNARSKY, LESC, CNRS & Université de Paris Ouest  
■ Edy VENEZIANO, Université Paris Descartes, MoDyCo, CNRS

#### ■ Responsible

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#### ■ Contacts

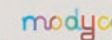
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# How flexible ARE LEXICAL CATEGORIES?

**OCTOBER 4-6, 2010**  
Salle Dussane  
École Normale Supérieure  
45 rue d'Ulm, 75005 Paris

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## Monday, October 4th

**9h00-9h30** Welcome and Registration  
**9h30-10h00** Introduction  
**10h00-11h15** Marcia HAAG - Can Roots be Polycategorical?  
The Case for the Number Two

**11h15-11h30** Coffee

**11h30-12h45** Mara SANTOS & Bruna FRANCHETTO - The Emergence of Nouns and Verbs in Kuikuro Language and Children's Speech

**12h45-14h00** Lunch

**14h00-15h15** Ximena LOIS, Valentina VAPNARSKY, Cedric BECQUEY & Aurore MONOD BECQUELIN - Polycategoriality across Mayan Languages: Action Nouns and Ergative Splits

**15h15-16h30** Barbara PFEILER - Acquisition and Comprehension of Nouns and Verbs in Yucatec Maya

**16h30-16h45** Coffee

**16h45-18h00** Marianne MITHUN - Conversion and Polycategoriality: Categorical Distinction or Cline of Productivity?

**18h00-19h30** Welcome Cocktail

## Tuesday, October 5th

**9h00-10h15** Alain KIHM - Categoriality as an Interface Phenomenon: a Comparison of Arabic, French, and Wolof  
**10h15-11h30** Denis CREISSELS - The Flexibility of Lexical Categories in Mandinka (Mande)

**11h30-11h45** Coffee

**11h45-13h00** Alain LEMARÉCHAL - Typologie et Abstraction: le Cas de la Polycatégorialité

**13h00-14h30** Lunch

**14h30-15h45** Françoise KERLEROUX - Catégories Lexicales et Programmes Morphologiques  
**15h45-17h00** Christophe PARISSÉ & Edy VENEZIANO - The Emergence of Noun and Verb Categories in the Acquisition of French: Evidence from Production and Comprehension

**17h00-17h15** Coffee

**17h15-18h30** Ruth BERMAN - Acquisition of Word Classes: Hebrew-Based and Cross-linguistic Perspectives

## Wednesday, October 6th

**9h30-10h45** Francesca MERLAN - Child Language Acquisition and Categoriality: Evidence from Ku Waru, Western Highlands, Papua New Guinea

**10h45-11h00** Coffee

**11h00-12h15** Eva SCHULTZE-BERNDT - The Curious Case of Nonverbal "verbs": on the Multifunctionality of an Open-class Category in Northern Australian Languages with Closed Verb Classes

**12h15-14h00** Lunch

**14h00-15h15** Melissa BOWERMAN - Discussion on Language Acquisition  
**15h15-16h30** Richard CARTER - What Have We Learned, and What Do We Need to Do to Learn More about Lexical Categories?

**16h30-16h45** Coffee

**16h45-18h30** Round Table  
Claire MOYSE-FAURIÉ, Elsa GOMEZ-IMBERT, Harriet JISA and participants

HOW FLEXIBLE ARE LEXICAL CATEGORIES?