



**You are invited to the research seminar of
the new *International Multimodal Communication Centre (IMCC)*, University of Oxford**

in Week 4 MT 2019

Date 6 November 2019; **Venue** Dahrendorf Seminar Room, St Antony's College Oxford

Event Programme:

*5 pm – 5.50 pm: Talk: **Gesture, metaphor, and spatial language***

By Professor Sotaro Kita, University of Warwick

5:50 – 6.20 pm: Q&A

6:20 – 7:00 pm: discussion during a wine reception

Abstract: I will discuss how co-speech (i.e., speech-accompanying) gestures relate to language and conceptualisation underlying language. I will focus on “representational gestures”, which can depict motion, action, and shape or can indicate locations (i.e., “iconic” and “deictic” gestures in McNeill’s 1992 classification). I will provide evidence for the following two points (using examples from English and Japanese). Various aspects of language shape co-speech gestures. Conversely, the way we produce co-speech gestures can shape language. I will discuss these issues in relation to manner and path in motion event descriptions, clause-linkage types in complex event descriptions, and metaphor. I will conclude that gesture and language are parts of a “conceptualisation engine”, which takes advantage of unique strengths of spatio-motoric representation and linguistic representation.

Bio: Prof. Sotaro Kita is a world-leading researcher in gesture and language studies. He has been Professor of Psychology of Language at Warwick since 2013. After studying engineering in Japan (B.Eng., Mathematical engineering, University of Tokyo, 1986; M.Eng. Information engineering, University of Tokyo, 1988), Prof. Kita moved to Chicago (USA). He received a Ph.D. in psychology and linguistics from the University of Chicago (1993) under the supervision of Professor David McNeill. In 1993, he joined the Cognitive Anthropology Research Group (lead by Stephen Levinson) at the Max Planck Institute for Psycholinguistics in the Netherlands, where he worked as a postdoc (1993-1994) and then a Senior Researcher in Levinson's group (1994-2003). Throughout his stay at the Institute, he was the leader of the Gesture Project, one of the research foci of the Institute. Prof. Kita was a Senior Lecturer at the Dept. of Experimental Psychology in the University of Bristol (2003-2006), and a Reader at the School of Psychology in the University of Birmingham (2006-2013).

How to subscribe to the IMCC mail list:

Many thanks to those who could join us at the launch event for the International Multimodal Communication Centre in Week 1 and our seminar in Week 2.

You can subscribe by sending an email to imcc-subscribe@maillist.ox.ac.uk If you subscribe, you will get our invitations to weekly IMCC seminars and relevant information about IMCC activities and events. We will also send a full term card for MT 2019, HT 2020 and TT 2020



as soon as all speakers confirm. Please encourage colleagues from across the University to join!

We look forward to seeing you at future events!

What is 'multimodal' analysis? Why have a multimodal communication centre? Why now?

Multimodal analysis is the combined analysis of at least two of the following aspects of human communication: verbal, sound, and visual. It is becoming increasingly relevant to researchers and research students from a wide range of social sciences and humanities disciplines as well as mathematical, physical, and life science disciplines.

Most human communication is more than just words: it is multimodal. How are verbal input, visual input and sound input integrated to generate messages and support their understanding? What do intonation, facial expression, gesture and body language add to the message communicated? How do producers use timing, settings, camera movement, etc. to manipulate their television or cinema audiences? How do media outlets frame the same event from different angles by foregrounding certain aspects of multimodal communication? How do people use multimodal cues to direct the reading of a text in a particular way? How do people use images, emoji, and videos to communicate on social media? How do our understanding of mechanisms and underlying goals of multimodal communication inform research in linguistics, psychology, political science, international relations, sociology, media studies, journalism studies, business and economics, cultural and cognitive anthropology, history of art, archaeology, computer science, mathematics, statistics, and engineering science?

There is a need to develop analytical models and methods for multimodal communication and large multimodal communication datasets on which these models/methods can be tested, as well as the combined pipelines of tools suitable for semi-automatic and automatic indexing, annotation, and analysis of such datasets. There is a further need to develop training and build capacity in research methods suitable for multimodal communication, and a need to provide a multimodal research evidence-base for policy and other knowledge exchange (KE) activities.

The International Multimodal Communication Centre (IMCC) will meet these needs and situate the University of Oxford at the leading edge of multimodal communication research. IMCC will serve as a hub for interdisciplinary and inter-regional research, facilitate KE, develop training materials, and support teaching activities.