

## Workshop on uninflectedness – Call for papers

**Call Deadline: 26 August 2022**

AG8 at the 45<sup>th</sup> annual meeting of the *German Linguistics Association* (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Sprachwissenschaft, DGfS) in Cologne (7-10 March 2023)

### Meeting description

Work on inflectional morphology often starts out from the canonical baseline that it is regular and productive (Corbett 2015). In canonical inflection, all lexemes in a given word class have the same inflectional properties. However, many languages have subsets of lexemes that do not inflect, while the rest of the items in the same word class do. For example, while Russian nouns typically inflect for two numbers and six cases, the noun *pal'to* ‘coat’ has the same form for all number and case combinations. Likewise, Italian nouns typically have singular and plural forms, but there are uninflected nouns as well, e.g. *gorilla*. Examples of uninflectedness can also be found in agreement, where some lexemes may not inflect as targets while others do, for example, in the Nakh-Dagestanian languages Archi, Ingush and Tsez only a subset of verbs agree.

Uninflectedness raises (i) systemic, (ii) typological and (iii) diachronic questions:

- (i) It contributes to the question of partial rules (Spencer 2020). Answering questions such as how and why languages use partial rule systems when it would appear simpler to have general rules will advance our knowledge of the role of grammatical rules in human language.
- (ii) Uninflectedness has not been investigated from a typological perspective. We need to ask how widespread it is and whether it displays typological distributions.
- (iii) Languages are systems in flux, and to reduce the cognitive load that a partial rule system entails we might assume that uninflectedness should be ironed out over time and all items become either inflecting or non-inflecting. We need to verify whether this is the case.

Keynote speakers: Greville G. Corbett  
Andrew Spencer

### References

- Corbett, Greville G. 2015. Morphosyntactic complexity: a typology of lexical splits. *Language* 91. 145-193.
- Spencer, Andrew. 2020. Uninflectedness: Uninflecting, uninflectable and uninflected words, or the complexity of the simplex. In Livia Körtevélyessy & Pavel Štekauer (eds.), *Complex words: Advances in morphology*, 142–158. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

## **Call for papers**

In this workshop we will chart the extent of the attested phenomena in a range of different languages. We invite papers on uninflectedness from a theoretical, typological or diachronic perspective.

## **Call Deadline: 26 August 2022**

Time for talks: 20 minutes presentation, 10 minutes discussion

Workshop language: English

Submission link: <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=45thdgfsannualmeetin>

### Abstract submission guidelines:

Abstracts should be submitted anonymously in PDF format. They should be written in English and not exceed 300 words (not counting references). Please include a list of up to 5 keywords.

### Workshop information:

The event will most likely be held as an on-site workshop. Please be prepared to travel to Cologne in order to participate.

Please note that the regulations of the German Linguistics Society (DGfS) do not allow workshop participants to present two or more papers in different workshops. However, you are allowed to be named co-authors in more than one presentation.

### Travel grants:

A limited number of travel grants of up to 500 Euro are available for accepted contributions by DGfS members without/with low income.

### Important dates:

Deadline for abstract submission: 26 August 2022, 23:59 CET

Notification of acceptance: Early September, 2022

### Workshop organizers:

Sebastian Fedden (Université Sorbonne Nouvelle, Paris)

Enrique Palancar (CNRS/SeDyL, Paris)

Contact: For all questions, please email [sebastian.fedden@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr](mailto:sebastian.fedden@sorbonne-nouvelle.fr)

Conference website: <https://dgfs2023.uni-koeln.de/en/>