Der Sonderforschungsbereich 991 "Die Struktur von Repräsentationen in Sprache, Kognition und Wissenschaft" lädt herzlich ein zum Vortrag von

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Donnerstag, 25.10.2012
12:30 – 14 Uhr
Hörsaal 2C, Gebäude 22.01

Towards an integral approach to Brazilian Portuguese bare nominals

Brazilian Portuguese provides an especially interesting testing ground for linguistic theories about the syntax and semantics of noun phrases. On the one hand, it has a full-blown Romance article system as well as a singular/plural distinction. On the other hand, there are no syntactic restrictions on “singular” nouns to occur “bare”, i.e. without an article at all. Although this is surely a controversial and somewhat radical claim, I will argue that it is superior to more “traditional” approaches. Pires de Oliveira & Rothstein (2011) also defend this radical claim and suggest that Brazilian Portuguese “bare singulars” actually are kind-denoting mass terms. I will discuss the advantages of this approach and focus on some questions that remain unanswered, concerning cases of variation in article use and plural marking, which will serve to re-open the question of noun denotation in this language and the role of the noun type.

Finally, I will show that for a better understanding of the actual status and the development of the whole system of nominal determination in Brazilian Portuguese, an integral approach is necessary. This means combining different methods and drawing on different data types as well as striving for a more fine-grained analysis, including phonological and information structural properties of this language.

Studierende und andere Interessierte sind herzlich willkommen.