

Panel Proposal
International Pragmatics Association Conference 2027

Title:
Producing and Evaluating Communication

Organisers:
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Abstract submission deadline: 15 October 2026

The panel is part of the 20th International Pragmatics Conference to be held at the University of Helsinki, Finland, from 27 June to 2 July 2027.

For further information, please check the Conference
link: <https://pragmatics.international/page/Conferences>

This panel will bring together researchers aiming to build on existing work in pragmatics by considering the processes involved in production and evaluation, how they interact with each other, how they interact with processes of interpretation, and how they contribute to communicative interaction overall. It will provide the opportunity to present and discuss ideas emerging from a research project funded by the Leverhulme Trust (<https://www.leverhulme.ac.uk>) which aims to develop an account which combines these elements (MRF-2024-043, 'Producing and Evaluating Style', Investigator Billy Clark).

Some recent developments in pragmatics can be understood as focusing on the full complexities involved in communication, no longer concentrating mainly or only on the interpretation of utterances and no longer seeing linguistic meanings as the main or only inputs to pragmatic processes. There is increased awareness of the dynamic nature of communication and the ways in which communication extends through and beyond interactions.

While there is reference to what communicators do in producing utterances in the suggestions made by Grice (1975, 1989) and in approaches which build on this (e.g. Horn 1984, 1988; Levinson 1987, 2000; Sperber and Wilson 1986), much work in pragmatics has focused mainly on how communicative acts are understood. There has been some work making more or less specific suggestions about the pragmatics of production (e.g. Kecskes 2013; Papafragou and Grigoroglou 2019; Park 2024) and a smaller amount, often from the perspective of stylistics, on evaluation (e.g. Clark 2014; van Peer 2008).

The model being developed in the Leverhulme Trust-funded project which provides the foundation for this panel builds on these recent approaches by including accounts of production and (aesthetic and more general) evaluation and of how production, interpretation and evaluation typically happen simultaneously and in interaction with each other. It views communication as dynamic, extending through time, before, during and after moments of interaction. It also makes suggestions about the nature of the processes involved and the extent to which various kinds of 'reasoning' are involved.

The panel invites contributions from researchers which explore aspects of these questions from any theoretical perspective and focus on any types of texts and interactions, including, but not restricted to, literary texts, face-to-face conversations, computer-mediated and multimodal communication.

The panel will highlight similarities and differences across the various approaches, with space to discuss possible future research directions.

The panel will aim to be as inclusive as possible, and particularly to allow space for early career academics to contribute. We therefore intend to assign spaces on the panel mainly in response to abstracts submitted in response to the panel call for papers.

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Acceptance notifications will be sent out by the end of October 2026

Please note that the conference will be held only in person. Travel and accommodation expenses are to be covered by the participants.