**Philosophy of Science meets Linguistics**

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**Course description**

The aim of this course and the three lectures is to discuss issues from theory of science that bear upon our work as linguists of different brands. Classical material such as Popper, Kuhn and Lakatos will be covered and discussed from the point of view of linguistics. However, we will also focus on more 'humanistic' approaches to science, in which other methods than those applicable to the natural sciences are suitable. The apparent tension between the natural sciences and the humanities will be framed in the context of linguistics, and in the last class, we will discuss whether this tension is an illusion or not. The lecturers aim for an interactive class where the required readings constitute the basis for the lectures.

**Required readings**

Gregersen, Frans & Simo Køppe. 1989. A Normative Theory of Humanistic

Kowledge. *Zeitschrift für allgemeine Wissenschaftstheory/Journal for General Philosophy of Science* 20: 40-53.

Hacking, Ian. 1999. Too many metaphors. In *The Social Construction of What?*, Ian

Hacking (ed.), 35-62. Cambridge, MA: Harvard University Press.

Kuhn, Thomas. 2000. Commensurability, Comparability, Communicability. In *The*

*Road Since Structure. Philosophical Essays, 1970-1993, with an Autobiographical Interview,* James Conant & John Haugeland (eds.), 33-57. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.

Kuhn, Thomas. 2000. The Natural and the Human Sciences. In *The*

*Road Since Structure. Philosophical Essays, 1970-1993, with an Autobiographical Interview,* James Conant & John Haugeland (eds.), 216-223. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.

Lakatos, I. 1970. Falsification and the Methodology of Scientific Research

Programmes. In *Criticism and the Growth of Knowledge*, Imre Lakatos & Alan Musgrave (eds.), 91-196. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Popper, Karl. 1970. Normal Science and its dangers. In *Criticism and the Growth*

*of Knowledge*, Imre Lakatos & Alan Musgrave (eds.), 51-58. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Saussure, Ferdinand de. 1916. *Cours de linguistique génerale*. Paris: Payot. [’Objet

de la linguistique’, pp. 8-15 in Harris, Roy. 1983. *Course in general linguistics*. London: Duckworth.]

**Recommended readings**

Chalmers, A.F. 1999. *What is this thing called science*? Indianapolis/Cambridge:

Hackett Publishing Company. [General background]

Gregersen, Frans & Simo Køppe. 1988. Against epistemological relativism.

*Studies in History and Philosophy of Science* 19: 447-487.

Kuhn, Thomas. 1970. *The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*. Chicago: University

of Chicago Press.

Kuhn, Thomas. 2000. A Discussion with Thomas Kuhn. In *The*

*Road Since Structure. Philosophical Essays, 1970-1993, with an Autobiographical Interview,* James Conant & John Haugeland (eds.*)*, 253-324. Chicago and London: The University of Chicago Press.

Percival, W. Keith. 1976. The Applicability of Kuhn’s Paradigms to the History of

Linguistics. *Language* 52: 285-294.