

Invitation

Logic Colloquium

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Data driven investigation of naturalness ascriptions in mathematics

the talk will take place on Monday, 06.02.23 at 15:15 in room F426

All interested are welcome to attend

Abstract: In the philosophy of mathematics, naturalness ascriptions made by mathematicians are discussed as guidelines for concept formation. However, the ascriptions that are referred to are mostly single, anecdotal occurrences and it is questionable if this is strong enough evidence to support the conclusions made in the philosophical debate. In this talk we present a new project that aims at systematically gathering data about naturalness ascriptions in mathematics from large linguistic corpora and analysing it to get a reliable and empirically supported picture of where such ascriptions are made and what role they play in concept formation. For this study, we borrow methods from corpus linguistics to quantitatively describe the linguistic behaviour of such phenomena, and use distributional semantic approaches to investigate the nature and relationship of these ascriptions in large collections of text.

Carolin Antos, Salma Kuhlmann Coordinators of the Logic Colloquium