

## Online Workshop proposal

Title: **On marginal figures again**

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This workshop continues a discussion that began in a theme session at FTL 6, 2022, entitled “On the margins of figurative thought and language”;<sup>1</sup> some of these papers later appeared in a special issue of *Lingua* (2023-24).<sup>2</sup> In both the theme session and the special issue, it was established that marginal figures are pervasive in thought and language, as are mainstream figures such as metaphor, metonymy and irony. In particular, it was emphasized that forms of language use such as allegory, antonomasia, euphemism, hypallage, litotes, oxymoron, paragon, tautology, zeugma, and others should be foregrounded as significant figures, and not be viewed as marginal rhetorical devices. Moreover, the conceptual structure of such figures as well as their pragmatic properties should be clearly determined through carefully constructed analyses.

The present workshop once again aims to shift the discussion of figurative thought and language from central exemplary figures to those figures considered to be marginal or those which have remained unexplored as figures of speech; however, the workshop might also serve to advance the study of any of the figures mentioned above. The central aim is to develop an enhanced understanding of the term *figurative* by providing in-depth analyses of relevant conceptual structure; in this approach, the term *figurative* conveys much more than simply a departure from literal meaning.

Key questions we aim to explore in the present workshop are the following:

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<sup>1</sup> THE 6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON FIGURATIVE THOUGHT AND LANGUAGE (FTL6) April 20-24, 2022. Faculty of English, Adam Mickiewicz University in Poznań, Poland.

<sup>2</sup> On the margins of Figurative Thought and Language. *Lingua* 2023 and 2024.  
Athanasiadou, A. 2023. Paragon and antonomasia: Similar but/and different?  
Athanasiadou, A. 2024. On the margins of figurative thought and language. Editorial.  
Barnden, J. 2023. Reflexive hyperbole, both ways.  
Brdar-Szabó, R. & Brdar, M. 2023. Figuratively used product names: From ergonyms to eponyms and paragons.  
Gibbs, R. W. 2023. What’s figurative about figurative language?  
Panther, K.-U & Thornburg, L. 2023. Hypallage is a rare bird. Not.  
Ruiz de Mendoza, Fr. J. & Peña Cervel, M. S. 2023. Structural similarity in figurative language: A preliminary cognitive analysis.

- Are marginal figures subordinate to central figures, or do they have an independent status?
- What conceptual constructs are needed to fully define marginal figures? In particular, should marginal figures be treated in terms of frames, domains or mental spaces, or explained as the result of cognitive operations such as similarity and contiguity?
- How do cognitive grammar and construction grammar contribute to an in-depth understanding of figurativity?
- How does figurativity guide pragmatic inference?
- What are the sociocultural and affective factors that motivate the creation of marginal figures?
- Can marginal figures be situated on a continuum which ranges from literal to figurative?

Some of these questions have been previously explored (FTL 6 and the corresponding special issue) but continue to be relevant to the present workshop.

Proposals for short abstracts (not more than 300 words) on the margins of figurative thought and language are encouraged. Presentations will be no longer than 15 min. The workshop is meant primarily as a discussion forum that would motivate research on the margins of figuration and their link to central figurative mechanisms. The presentations may constitute the first step for the organization of a theme session in the upcoming FTL 8 conference.

There is no registration fee.

Let me know if you would be interested in participating and, if so, please send me your abstract **by July 15<sup>th</sup>**. Then you will be informed on the details of the online platform we will be using.

Should you have any further inquiries do not hesitate to contact me ([angath@enl.auth.gr](mailto:angath@enl.auth.gr)).