

# **Limits of grammatical arbitrariness in Wittgenstein**

**Date:** October 14, 2009  
17:00-19:00

**Place:** 14-308, Building 14,  
Komaba Campus

**Languages:** English

**Note:** Admission Free,  
No Registration Required

**Speaker:** **Henrik Voss**  
**(The University of Tokyo)**

## **Abstract:**

**Wittgenstein has had quite some influence on linguistic research -- most notably by the concept of family resemblances. The reverse, however, does not equally hold true, despite various conceptual overlappings between Wittgenstein's late philosophy and functional linguistics in particular.**

**A first landmark for exploring those similarities is the notion of grammar as use -- a concept that is well inflated beyond its everyday meaning and thus prima facie contradicts Wittgenstein's credo of leaving language as it is. The philosophical implications of such a wide concept and its relation to the notion of grammatical arbitrariness will be discussed with special regard to empirical evidence from functional and cognitive linguistics.**