Negation in language and mind

M.Teresa Espinal (Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona)

In this talk I focus on various topics involved in the interpretation of negation and on the central role of negation in various parametric divisions postulated in the theory of language (e.g., negative polarity vs. negative concord; polarity-based vs. truth-based languages). I provide evidence for addressing the study of negation from a multimodal interaction model of language design, and I advocate for the full integration of the pragmatic and semantic meanings contributed by prosody and gesture in linguistic research. I also support the integration of theoretical and experimental research in order to increase our knowledge of the meaning of those items involved in different sorts of negative dependencies and their interpretation by native speakers of various natural languages.