

Workshop on ‘Word Order in the Nominal Domain (WONDo):  
Factors, Perspectives, and Approaches

10-11th November, 2022

*Goethe University Frankfurt, Campus Westend*

*This two-day workshop is organized by the doctoral researchers of RTG ‘Nominal Modification’ and aims at bringing together junior and senior researchers working on word order in the nominal domain.*

The nominal domain is as rich in its structural composition as the clausal domain. It is well established that the order of nominal modifiers varies both across and within languages; nonetheless, compared to the extensive literature exploring word order phenomena in the clausal domain, the nominal counterparts of such phenomena have received less attention. Moreover, specific aspects of nominal word order – such as the ordering of adjectives – have been explored more extensively than others. Even in these cases, many questions still remain open and word order phenomena in the nominal domain in general remain ill-understood.

Of central interest to this workshop is the exploration of different factors that are relevant to word order in the nominal domain. In the existing literature, a number of such factors have been identified, relating to typology, syntax, semantics, phonology, morphology, psycholinguistics and cognition i.a., as well as their interfaces. As a result, different views have been expressed on the causes and effects of word order patterns across languages. However, these views are typically discussed independently and, consequently, there is little or no consensus among existing approaches.

Hence, the aim of this workshop is twofold: (i) to investigate – both formally and experimentally – a variety of factors that interact with the placement and ordering of nominal modifiers intra- and cross-linguistically and (ii) to offer a forum for exchanging views on the factors influencing word order phenomena in the nominal domain.

Topics of particular interest to this workshop are factors related to:

- **The Syntax-Semantics Interface**

Word order phenomena in the nominal domain have mainly been attributed to the different semantic interpretations that result from different order patterns of nominal

modifiers; however, there is no consensus as to which semantic parameter(s) can better predict and account for all the existing patterns.

- **Morphosyntax**

Morphological contrasts have been considered an accidental reflex of the underlying structural and/or semantic properties of nominal word order; nevertheless, it has also been suggested that morphological properties may determine the ordering of nominal modifiers.

- **The Syntax-Phonology Interface**

It has been suggested that word order patterns in the nominal domain may be the result of phonological requirements and, thus, directly determined by phonological factors; the opposite may as well be true, however, given that differences in the placement of nominal modifiers may affect the phonological structure of the nominal constituent.

- **Experimental approaches**

Word order phenomena in the nominal domain have also been attributed to cognitive and processing constraints. Recent work employing experimental and psycholinguistic methods is shedding light on the extent to which these factors can account for ordering patterns observed within and across languages.