

European Summer School in Linguistic Typology

September 2016

**Multimodality in a typological perspective:
Crosslinguistic variation in speech and gestures**

Pr. M. Gullberg, Univ. Lund

Language use is a multimodal phenomenon: when we speak, we also gesture. Moreover, we gesture in culture- and language-specific ways. Gestural repertoires and practices differ across communities, and the differences are determined by cultural convention but also by the nature of the linguistic systems at semantic, morphosyntactic, and discursive levels. As such, gestures become relevant for linguistic typology.

This course will introduce students to contemporary gesture studies, starting with discussions of form and function, and some key theoretical and methodological notions. The main focus will be on the comparison between general patterns on the one hand, and culture- and language-specific variation on the other across a few linguistic domains. The aim is to equip students with tools to take the first steps towards including gesture in their typological work.