

# Center for Cognitive Science

University at Buffalo, State University of New York

**Wednesday, February 19, 2003**

280 Park Hall  
North Campus  
2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

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## “Evidence for the Spatial and Image-schematic Underpinnings of Language Processing”

For some time now, cognitive linguists have suggested that human language has as its infrastructure a spatial, perceptual, and embodied format of representation and processing. I will report on a series of experiments that support some of these claims. For example, in an eyetracking experiment, participants listening to spatially-extended stories, and staring at a blank display, tend to make eye movements in the direction of the story's events. Also, a set of offline and online experiments have demonstrated that the major spatial axis of a verb's image schema is generally agreed upon by naive participants, and also exerts an influence on their visual attention and visual memory during real-time language comprehension. These results provide evidence for the embodied perceptual-motor character of linguistic representations.

**Refreshments will be available.  
Open to the public.**