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**Experimental evidence for a new long-distance licensing phenomenon at the interfaces.**  
(joint work with Mariya Kharaman, Maribel Romero, Josef Bayer and Carsten Eulitz)

Abstract:

Question-sensitive discourse particles like *denn* are subject to syntactic, semantic and pragmatic licensing constraints. Long-distance licensing processes at this complex interface have received little attention so far in psycholinguistic research, with the notable exception of negative and positive polarity items. For these, the most debated phenomenon is "intrusive" or "illusory" licensing by a present, but syntactically inaccessible licenser.

In this week's talk, I present data from rating and ERP studies on polarity items and question-sensitive discourse particles, offering a side-by-side comparison of different kinds of licensing violations. I will discuss possible implications of our findings for competing explanations of linguistic illusions in long-distance licensing processes.