



### **SFB Guest Lecture**

**Thursday, November 16, 2023 at 2.00 pm  
Campus Golm, Building 14, Room 0.32**

Invited by the projects B01 and B05

Prof. Dr. [Niels O. Schiller](#) (Leiden University)  
will give a talk on

### **The activation and selection of grammatical gender as a lexico-syntactic feature in speech production - new evidence from Dutch**

#### **Abstract:**

When we produce speech, we need to plan ahead and activate and select different types of information: semantic, syntactic, lexical, morphological, phonological, phonetic, etc.

Semantic concepts activate lexical information in our mental lexicon, including word-specific syntactic information. For instance, in English speakers need to know that “onion” is countable, while “garlic” is uncountable, hence “many onions” but “much garlic”. In German and Dutch, nouns have grammatical gender (e.g., “het boek” – the book; neuter gender vs. “de boef” – the thief; common gender). This lexico-syntactic feature is often opaque and generally assumed to be stored in the lexicon. When producing a determiner noun phrase, speakers must activate and select the appropriate grammatical gender of nouns.

Past behavioral research has illustrated the circumstances and constraints of grammatical gender processing (La Heij et al., 1998; Schiller & Caramazza, 2003; Schriefers, 1993). More recently, researchers have started to apply event-related brain potentials (ERPs) to find out more about the time-course of grammatical gender processing (Bürki et al., 2016). In this presentation, I will present new data (both behavioral and electrophysiological) from Dutch native speakers and L2 learners of Dutch regarding grammatical gender processing.

Everyone is cordially invited.