



## *Linguistic dimensions of Gesture Studies*

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When people speak, they gesture. We shake our heads in disbelief, we shrug, we point towards the exit, demonstrate the size of an idea, wave goodbye, and brush off an imposition. Gesture is so important for communication that if we prevent a speaker from moving their hands, they might start to stutter. From pantomime to spontaneous gesticulation – people across languages and cultures have communicated things with movements of their hands and arms. The field of gesture studies is relatively new, but it has already shown a tremendous potential.

This session invites contributions from young researchers interested in how gesture works in communication and thought; how it can be used in teaching and learning; and how to apply gesture studies in social contexts, theatre, entertainment, gaming and film. We invite theoretical, empirical and applied studies. Topics include, but are not limited to:

- Cognitive linguistic approaches to gesture: metaphorical gesture, metonymic gesture, image-schematic gestures, gesture and frame semantics
- Alignment between speech and gesture
- Universality / variability in gesture use
- Gesture and language acquisition
- Role of gesture in teaching and learning
- Gesture research methods and methodologies