Monday 7 April 2014
14h00
UT3 Paul Sabatier, IRIT, Auditorium J. Herbrand

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The Geometry of Meaning: Semantics Based on Conceptual Spaces

Abstract: In logic most information is carried by predicates, but in natural language predicates correspond to several word classes - nouns, adjectives, verbs, prepositions, etc. I shall argue that there are cognitive and communicative reasons why natural languages have word classes. I shall do this by presenting models of the semantics of the main word class in terms of conceptual spaces. A consequence is that one obtains a partial explanation of how children can learn the meanings of words so quickly as they do.

Short biography: Professor of Cognitive Science at Lund University (Sweden) and Member of the Royal Swedish Academy of Letters, History and Antiquities. Peter Gardenfors has published more than 250 articles in various journals and books. The journals are within philosophy, cognitive science, logic, artificial intelligence, economics, management science, linguistics, psychology, sociology and biology. He is one of the authors of the famed AGM approach to belief revision and works now on distributional semantics.