In the literature dealing with derivational morphology, one of the most intricate issues is the question of how the semantic influence of the derivational affix on its derivative may best be represented in the respective modelling of derivational processes. In recent work on derivational morphology, it is frequently assumed that the systematic polysemy and the functional diversity of the affixes is best represented in a multi-layered model in which the influence of the affixes on the semantic contribution of the base may be modelled at a highly abstract layer of morphological representation. In this way, structure building within the bounds of derivational morphology may be regarded as being subject to regular processes, while the diversity of derivational patterns exhibited by a single derivational affix may be attributed to the more specific semantics of the derivational base. This analysis can be pursued both in morphological and in syntactic approaches to the formation and interpretation of derivational structures.

This workshop is designed to further our understanding of the abstract semantics of derivational morphology. We aim to contrast different perspectives on the question of how the underlying semantic content of morphological processes can be analyzed starting from phenomena on the surface. In addition to the diverse morphological models, this workshop is also supposed to bring together synchronic and diachronic, as well as theoretical and empirical work on different languages. In this way we hope to achieve further understanding of the semantics of derivational morphology and the possibilities of empirical analyses in this field.

We would be glad to welcome you next year in Stuttgart!