

The Center for Gesture, Sign, and Language Spring 2014 Workshop

**Anastasia Giannakidou: “From gesture to sign: the ingredients of language”**

In this talk, we ask the question of what the pathway is from gesture to sign, and therefore to language. While the role of (co-speech) gesture is supplementary to language, in creating a sign system, a gesture acquires formal properties that render it an expression of language. From this perspective, it is extremely interesting to study homesigns, i.e. signs produced by deaf children in the absence of conventional linguistic input. Based on work with Susan Goldin-Meadow, I will present three cases -- negation, questions, and reference-- and address the role meaning plays in driving the transition from gesture to language. Full fledged sign languages exhibit further a level of integration that is absent from homesign, and which is indicative of more articulated syntactic structure.

Wednesday, May 7

**\*\*2:00 - 3:30pm\*\* Please note the time change**

Alumni House Library  
5555 S Woodlawn Avenue  
To RSVP, click [here](#).

This event is free and open to the public. Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation in order to participate in this event should contact Laura Tharsen at [ltharsen@uchicago.edu](mailto:ltharsen@uchicago.edu). Organized by [The Center for Gesture, Sign, and Language](#) with support from the [Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society](#).