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Visible Scales

The main goal of the proposed PhD research is examining the properties, structure and organisation of degree expressions within the expressive possibilities of sign languages, specifically Czech Sign Language. The visual modality of language can offer striking new evidence about the underlying semantic degree scales by overtly realising them in the phonological/morphological form of signs, and thus making them more directly available to some operations. The central question is exactly how much of the semantic scale is manifested overtly and what consequences it brings to various possibilities of reference to degrees. In this talk, I will outline an elicitation plan for the first stages of this project.