

Evaluating Notations for the Specification of Time

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PhD Outline:

My overall area of interest is the specification of time. What I am intending to do is to try to develop a method of evaluating notations which can be used to specify time. My main intention is to assess how cognitive dimensions are able to assist in this evaluation as they stand and to try to develop an extra dimension which could be used to consider the efficacy of notations where they are used to specify time. I am currently researching in some detail what exactly is required of a 'timed' notation, and am hoping that this, combined with research into human understanding of time will allow me to define a method by which the notations usefulness in a given situation may be assessed. I will then assess the evaluation method, probably through the use of surveys and case studies.

The work is currently at a relatively early stage and therefore I am hoping that the doctoral consortium will provide a chance to discuss my work with others who are working in a similar area and to work out some of the details, particularly with regard to how I might assess any evaluative framework I propose.