

---

# Priming relevant and irrelevant features in metaphorical and literal contexts

Shaokang Jin<sup>\*†1</sup>, Eirini Sossidi<sup>\*‡1</sup>, and Richard Breheny<sup>\*§1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Division of Psychology and Language Sciences, UCL – United Kingdom

## Abstract

This study investigates the empirical prediction that language comprehension, literal or metaphoric, involves activation of features that are relevant for the derivation of intended interpretations (1, 2, 3). This prediction was tested using a cross-modal priming technique following (4, 5). Result of experiment 1 shows that in either literal or metaphorical contexts, priming was found for relevant features at late ISI (1000ms), but not for non-relevant ones at any ISI. Result of experiment 2 shows that in metaphorical contexts, priming differs for two types of non-relevant features-the superordinates were primed at some points while the strong associates were not.

**Keywords:** metaphor, context, cross, modal priming

---

\*Speaker

†Corresponding author: shaokang.jin.16@ucl.ac.uk

‡Corresponding author: eirini.sossidi.21@ucl.ac.uk

§Corresponding author: r.breheny@ucl.ac.uk