Animacy continues to be a fruitful area of research for our group. The fundamental cognitive distinction between living and non-living entities has important consequences for the language we use, and studying language use in turn provides insights into the cognitive mechanisms underlying this distinction. After a brief introduction to the linguistic expression of animacy, Peter de Swart will present data from a recent eye-tracking study showing that animacy information is immediately brought to bear in predicting upcoming constituents during sentence processing. In the second part of our talk we will explore what happens when we turn animacy on its head by looking at inanimate characters in narrative fiction, as demonstrated by the first results of Thijs Trompenaars' PhD project. Finally, we will discuss implications for the linguistic notion of animacy.

Tuesday, March 22nd 2016, 12:45 (sharp), E 2.50 (Erasmus Building)
Lunch is provided! To register send an e-mail to:

clscolloquium@gmail.com

More information: http://www.ru.nl/cls/colloquium