**How to be active: Motivations, mechanisms and limits of active dependency formation**

Aya Meltzer-Asscher, Linguistics Department and Sagol School of Neuroscience, Tel Aviv University

One of the most robust phenomena in sentence processing is the parser's tendency to actively resolve filler-gap dependencies as early as possible. Although it was demonstrated widely, many questions with regard to this "active filler" strategy remain unanswered: what drives active gap filling? How is the gap position identified? And what constrains the possibility of positing a gap? In this talk, I will present experimental results shedding light on these issues. Among other things, I will discuss syntactic vs. pragmatic motivations for active dependency resolution; feature maintenance and retrieval during the processing of filler-gap dependencies, and the working memory mechanisms involved in active gap filling; and the interaction of filler-gap dependency formation with islands and grammatical resumption.