**2019-20**

2nd October 2019 2-4pm Francois Recanati (Collège de France)

Why polysemy supports radical contextualism

Abstract: After presenting two forms of Contextualism, I will argue that the phenomenon of polysemy supports the stronger one – so-called Radical Contextualism. My argument will be based on a comparison between indexicality, ambiguity, polysemy and pragmatic modulation.  Suggested reading before the meeting (pdf)

13th November 2019 3-5pm Emma Borg (University of Reading)

Truth, Meaning and Polysemy

Abstract: There is a long tradition in philosophy of assuming a connection between linguistic meaning and truth: words are held to refer to or to describe things in the world, sentences are held to be bearers of truth-conditions or to express propositions which are true just in case the world is as represented. This intuitive philosophical leaning is well-captured in Lewis’ famous slogan that “semantics with no treatment of truth-conditions is not semantics”. But is this move to connect linguistic meaning and truth just an ungrounded prejudice? Recently, there has been a resurgence of interest in internalist approaches to content (most obviously in work by Noam Chomsky and Paul Pietroski), where the explanatory work of meaning is exhausted by capturing certain language-internal features (such as compositionality and entailment), rather than forging word-world relations. On this model, questions of truth are orthogonal to issues of meaning.In this talk, I ask what is involved in adopting a truth-conditional approach to linguistic meaning, and investigate the arguments both for and against such an approach. In particular, I explore the extent to which polysemy poses a problem for a truth-conditional approach and critically assess the extent to which internalism provides a better answer. Suggested reading before the meeting (Word)

27th November 2-4pm Robyn Carston (University College London)

Lexical Pragmatics and Sense Conventions

11th December 1-6pm Nick Allott & Mark Textor, Hugh Rabagliati, Jake Quilty-Dunn and Tim Pritchard

Workshop on Polysemy, Concepts and Word Meaning

**2018-19**

5th December Ingrid Falkum (CSMN)

Figurative language acquisition: Evidence from eye-tracking and picture selection

30th January (2019) Francesca Bonalumi (CEU & U. of Warwick)

Commitment and Communication: are we committed to what we mean, or what we say?

28th November 2019 Thomas Hodgson (KCL)

Meaning underdetermines what is said, therefore utterances express many propositions

8th October 2019 Jonathen Cohen (UCSD)

Coherence and Conversation

**2017-18**

27th June  Lewis Pollock - UCL Which concepts should we posit?

30th May  Diego Feinnman - Sheffield/ENS-IJN On the nature of lexical narrowing effects

9th May  Lewis Bott - Cardiff University  What imitation tells us about quantity implicatures

6th Dec Robert Stainton - Western University Use-Theoretic Meaning, Register and Slurs

1st Nov Tim Pritchard - UCL Problems with Lexical Adjustment

11th Oct Richard Breheny - UCL The Role of Shared Information in False Belief Tasks

**2016-17**

7th June Yasutada Sudo - UCL

31st May Davis Ozols - Université de Fribourg

Effectiveness of quantified expressions on the validity of arguments

17th May Ye Tian - Université Paris Diderot

Meaning interplay between emojis and linguistic text

22nd Mar Marina Ortega-Andrés - University of the Basque Country Underspecification and Overspecification in Relevance Theory

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 8th Mar | Kyriakos Antoniou - University of Cambridge |

The effect of childhood multilingualism and bi-dialectalism on implicature understanding and executive control skills.

1st Mar Agustín Vicente - University of the Basque Country Truth conditions for countries, cities and schools

8th Feb  Josephine Bowerman - UCL What’s really going on with the ham sandwich? An investigation into the nature of referential metonymy

1st Feb Chao Sun & Richard Breheny - UCL Rates of scalar inferences beyond ‘some’ – A corpus study

30th Nov Eliot Michaelson - KCL Best Coast Semantics

23th Nov Richard Breheny & Daniel Rothschild - UCL On the readings of Donkey Sentences

26th Oct  Julia Kolkmann - University of York Full but only half-saturated? New perspectives on primary pragmatic processes

19th Oct Ye Tian - Université Paris Diderot "No, I AM": What are you saying "no" to?

12th Oct  Kate Scott - Kingston University Ostension, Expectations and Non-Encoded Meaning

**2015-16**

1st June  Ye Tian - Université Paris Diderot Laughter as a gestural event anaphor

11th May Elliot Murphy - UCL Phasal Eliminativism, Anti-Lexicalism, and the Status of the Unarticulated

27th Apr Alison Hall - De Montfort University  Discussion on: Borg (2016) Exploding Explicatures

16th Mar Andrew Nevins - UCL Discussion on: Marty, Chemla & Spector (2015) Phantom readings: the case of modified numerals.

24th Feb  Hagit Borer - Queen Mary University of London Rooting for Roots

 10th Feb  Elspeth Wilson - University of Cambridge In a manner of speaking: revisiting the fourth maxim

 27th Jan  Joey Pollock - University of Edinburgh Holism, conceptual role and conceptual similarity

 9th Dec Lewis Pollock - UCL Discussion on: Bradford Z. Mahon (2015) What is embodied about cognition?

 18th Nov  Daniel Rothschild - UCL  Semantic contradictions and lexical flexibility: the case of belief

 4th Nov  Timothy Pritchard - KCL Word meaning: a suggestion

 28th Oct Yasutada Sudo - UCL Discussion on: Chemla (2008) An epistemic step for anti-presupposition

 21th Oct Giulio Dulcinati - UCL  Quantity implicatures: symmetric alternatives or explicitness

 7th Oct Chao Sun - UCL  Discussion on: Potts et al.(2015) on embedded implicatures

**2014-15**

 27th May  Nausicaa Pouscoulous - UCL Discussion on: The development of the epistemic step in scalar implicatures

 20th May Simona Di Paola - Laboratorio di Linguistica ‘G. Nencioni',Scuola Normale Superiore Tasty Spoons and Sharks from the Court …-Behavioural and Electrophysiological Evidence on Metonymy and Metaphor Processing

 25th Mar Richard Breheny - UCL Perspective taking in referential processes

 11th Mar Satoru Uchida - Kyushu University How "contrast" is made: A frame-based approach

 25th Feb Nathan Klinedinst (UCL) & Jacopo Romoli (University of Ulster) Discussion on: On the characterization of alternatives

 21st Jan Eliot Michaelson - KCL Reference and Confusion

**2013-2014**

10th December 2014 (2.00pm, room G15) Felicity Deamer (Durham University)-Pragmatics, Inner Speech and Self-Knowledge (Felicity Deamer and Sam Wilkinson)

26th November 2014 (2.00pm, room G15) Ye Tian (Université Paris Diderot)-Mental representations of positive and negative polar questions

29th October 2014 (2.00pm, room G15) Nathan Klinedinst (UCL) will lead a discussion on the following paper:‘On the characterization of alternatives’ by Fox & Katzir. Available here: http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007%2Fs11050-010-9065-3

8th October 2014 (2.00pm, room G15) Richard Breheny (UCL) will lead a discussion on the following paper:'Beyond Speakers Meaning' by Sperber & Wilson: http://www.dan.sperber.fr/wp-content/uploads/Beyond-speakers-meaning-draft-2014.pdf

21st May 2014 (2.00pm, room 116) Linden Ball (University of Central Lancashire) - Pragmatic Factors in Hypothesis Testing: The Case of Wason's 2-4-6 Task

2nd April 2014 (3.30pm, room 116) Ye Tian (UCL) - Negation and the accomodation of Question Under Discussion

19th March 2014 (2.00pm, room 116) Catherine Wearing (Wellesley College) - Metaphor and Seeing-As

12th March 2014 (2.00pm, room 116) Bipin Indurkhya (International Institute of Information Technology Hyderabad) - Perceptual similarity in visual metaphors and creativity

5th March 2014 (2.00pm, room 116) Catalina Urquiza Arribas (UCL) - Building a radically contextualist account of word meaning

26th February 2014 (2.00pm, room 116) Diana Mazzarella (UCL) will lead a discussion on the following paper:

Sperber, D. 2005. Modularity and relevance: How can a massively modular mind be flexible and context-sensitive? In P. Carruthers & S. Laurence (Eds.),The innate mind: Structure and content (pp. 53-68) New York: Oxford University Press.

12th February 2014 (2.00pm, room 116) Anouch Bourmayan (IJN, UCL) - Implicit indefinite objects: a conceptual-pragmatic approach

29th January 2014 (2.00pm, room G15) Stavros Assimakopoulous (University of Malta) - Encoded lexical meaning in Relevance Theory

11th December 2013 (2.00pm, room G15) Steven Frisson (University of Birmingham) - Reading a scary book that's ripped: On-line processing of metonymies

27th November 2013 (2.15pm-5.00pm, room G15) Rachel Giora (Tel Aviv University) - Why sarcastic opposites don't come easy, Carita Paradis (Lund University) - Are all opposites equal - or are some more equal than others? and Deirdre Wilson (UCL, CSMN) - Irony, hyperbole, jokes and banter

20th November 2013 (2.00pm, room G15) Paula Rubio-Fernández (UCL) and Bart Geurts (University of Nijmegen) - Is an apple like a fruit? A study on comparison and categorization statements

30th October 2013 (2.00pm, room 116) Felicity Deamer (UCL) - Young children's understanding of figurative language

16th October 2013 (2.00pm, room 116) Isabelle Needham-Didsbury (UCL) will lead a discussion on the following papers:

Wilson, D. 2010. Parallels and differences in the treatment of metaphor in relevance theory and cognitive linguistics. UCL Working Papers in Linguistics 22: 41-55. Available here: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/psychlangsci/research/linguistics/publications/wpl/10papers/Wilson2010

Gibbs, R. and Tendahl, M. 2011. Coupling of metaphoric cognition and communication: A reply to Deirdre Wilson. Intercultural Pragmatics 8-4: 601-609.

2nd October 2013 (3.00pm, room 116) Mark Jary (University of Roehampton) - Two types of implicature: Material and Behavioural

8th May 2013 (3.30 pm, room 116) Thomas Scott-Phillips (Durham University) - Communication, pragmatics, and the origins of language.

20th March 2013 (2.00 pm, room 116) Alison Hall will lead a discussion on the following paper:

Koralus, P. (2013), Descriptions, ambiguity, and representationalist theories of interpretation, Philosophical Studies 162 (2): 275–290.

The discussion will focus on the first 4 sections.

13th March 2013 (2.00 pm, room 116) Xiaobei Zheng (UCL) - Perspective taking in online language processing.

20th February 2013 (2.00 pm, room 116) Marie Guillot (Institut Jean Nicod) - The limits of selflessness. Semantic relativism and the epistemology of de se thoughts.

23rd January 2013 (2.00pm, room G15) Ekaterini Klepousniotou (University of Leeds) - Right hemisphere contributions to figurative language processing.

9th and 16th January 2013 (2.00pm, room G15) Diana Mazzarella will lead a discussion on the following paper:

Sperber, D., Clément, F., Heintz, C., Mascaro, O., Mercier, U., Origgi, G. & Wilson, D. 2010. Epistemic vigilance. Mind & Language 24(4): 359-393.

The discussion will be organised as follows:

9th January: sections 1-4.

16th January: sections 5-9.

**2012-2013**

5th December 2012 (2.00pm, room B01) Giulio Dulcinati will lead a discussion on the following paper:

Scott-Phillips, T. C. 2010. The Evolution of Relevance. Cognitive Science 34: 583-601.

21st November 2012 (2.00pm, room G15) Ye Tian (UCL) - What can eye-tracking data tell us about negation process?

24th October 2012 (2.00pm, room 116) Frauke Berger (University of Potsdam) - Children's interpretation of the additive particle also.

10th October 2012 (2.00pm, room 116) Mark Jary (University of Roehampton) and Mikhail Kissine (Université Libre de Bruxelles) - Imperative sentences: semantics and pragmatics.

3rd October 2012 (2.00pm, room 116) Ruth Filik (University of Nottingham) - How do we understand irony? A multi-method approach.

6th June 2012 (3.30pm, room 116). Felicity Deamer. 'Suppression and the relationship between the topic and vehicle concepts in hyperbole and metaphor comprehension.'

16th May 2012 (3.30pm, room 116). Rachel Giora. 'Negation generates nonliteral interpretations by default: The case of metaphor and sarcasm.'

4th May 2012 (10.30am-6pm, Room G10, Chandler House). Pragmatics and Autism Workshop. [download programme]

22nd February 2012 (3.30pm, room 116). Filippo Domaneschi will be presenting results from an experiment regarding the role of propositional attitudes towards presuppositions.

8th February 2012 (3.30pm, room 116). Alison Hall will lead a discussion on the following paper:

Marco Mazzone and Elisabetta Lalumera 2010. Concepts: Stored or Created?

25th January 2012 (3.30pm, room 116). Annika Deichsel. The Discourse Structuring Potential of Indefinite Demonstrative /dieser /in German

**2011-2012**

7th December 2011 (3.30pm, room 116). Nicola Spotorno.

23rd November 2011 (3.30pm, room 116). Matthew Gotham.

12th October 2011 (3.30pm, room 116). Alison Hall will lead a discussion on ad hoc concepts. Background reading can be found here:

http://www.ucl.ac.uk/psychlangsci/research/linguistics/People/linguistics-staff/robyn\_carston/pdfs/Carston-2010-Soria.pdf

Specifically pages 23-25 on the nature of ad hoc concepts.

5th October 2011 (3.30pm, room 116). Felicity Deamer. Discussion of two metaphor processing and production papers:

- Pierce, R. and Chiappe, D.2008. The roles of aptness, conventionality and working memory in the production of Metaphors and Similes. Metaphor and Symbol, 24:1, 1-19.

- Pierce R, Maclaren R, and Chiappe DL. 2010. The role of working memory in the metaphor interference effect. Psychonomic Bulletin & Review. Vol. 17, No.3, 400-404.

25th May 2011 (3pm, room 116). Anouch Bourmayan. 'From incorporation to pragmatic enrichment: shifting the perspective on implicit indefinite objects'.

4th May 2011 (2pm, room 116). Deirdre Wilson. 'Understanding and believing'.

16th March 2011 (3.30pm, room 116). Richard Breheny. 'On the cognitive architecture for utterance interpretation'.

2nd March 2011 (3pm, room 116). Larraitz Zubeldia. The semantic and pragmatic properties of the Basque particle "omen".

23rd February 2011 (3pm, room 116). Thiago Galery. Disccussion of a chapter of a recent book by Susan Carey called 'The origin of concepts'.

**2010-2011**

8th December 2010 (3pm, room 116). Judith Degen. Linguistic and extra-linguistic factors in scalar implicature processing.

27th October 2010. (3pm, room 116). Beata Zacharska. Definite Descriptions: Semantic or Pragmatic Polysemy?

20th October 2010 (3pm, room 116). Nathan Klinedinst. Connectives.

13th October 2010. (3pm, room 116) Richard Breheny will lead a discussion on Recognising Communicative Intentions in Infancy (Csibra 2010)

10th June 2010. 4pm. Room G15. Linguistics-philosophy seminar: Sarah-Jane Leslie (Princeton). 'Generics, quantifiers, and cognition'. Abstract.

2nd June 2010. (2pm, room 116) Felicity Deamer will discuss an experiment comparing interpretation of novel hyperboles vs novel metaphors. Ye Tian will discuss an experiment on embedded implicatures.

26th May 2010. 2.30pm, room 116. Alison Hall. 'Free' enrichment and the nature of pragmatic constraints.

24 March 2010. (2pm room 116) Deirdre Wilson. The conceptual-procedural distinction: past, present, and future. Abstract.

Background reading: Wilson and Sperber, Linguistic form and relevance (Lingua 1993): http://www.dan.sperber.fr/wp-content/uploads/2009/09/Linguistic-form-and-relevance.pdf.

17 March 2010. Georg Kjoll (CSMN, Oslo) 'What is lost and what is gained in giving up on encoded meaning?' Abstract.

10 March 2010, 1pm, room G15. Paula Rubio-Fernandez. Eye movements in the Sally-Anne task: Adults reveal an egocentric bias in false-belief reasoning.

24 Feb 2010, 3pm, room G15. Joint linguistics/philosophy seminar: Robbie Williams (Leeds), "Tenable conditionals".

10 Feb 2010, room G15. Robyn Carston, "Metaphor processing and the role of ad hoc concepts". Background reading: Sperber and Wilson, A deflationary account of metaphor (UCLWPL 2006).

3 Feb 2010, 3pm, room G15. Joint linguistics/philosophy seminar: John Hawthorne (Oxford), "Indicative conditionals".

27 Jan 2010. 4pm, room 101. Marta Abrusan (Oxford), Triggering verbal presuppositions. Abstract.

Optional background reading:

Abusch, D. (2002). Lexical alternatives as a source of pragmatic presuppositions. In Jackson, B., editor, Proceedings of SALT 12. CLC Publications, Cornell University. http://ling.cornell.edu/docs/Abusch-Pragmatic-Presupposition.pdf

Simons, M. (2001). On the conversational basis of some presuppositions. In Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistics Theory 11. http://www.hss.cmu.edu/philosophy/simons/simons.SALT2001.pdf

Wilson and Sperber, 1979. Ordered entailments: An alternative to presuppositional theories. In: C.K. Oh and D. Dinneen, Editors, Syntax and semantics Vol. 11, Academic Press, New York (1979), pp. 299–323. Presupposition

20 Jan 2010. Thiago Galery, The nature of singular mental states. Abstract. Background reading: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/psychlangsci/research/linguistics/publications/wpl/09papers/galery.

13 Jan 2010, 4pm. Discussion of Edwards, K. 2009. 'What concepts do.' Synthese 170: 289-310. (led by Alison Hall)

9 December 2009 1.30pm, room 116. Three-year-old children comprehend relevance implicatures. Cornelia Schulze (Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology, Leipzig)

25 November 2009 4pm, room G15. Discussion of Speaks, J. 2008. 'Conversational implicature, thought, and communication'. Mind and Language 23(1): 107-122. (led by Tom Hodgson)

18 November 2009 2pm, room G15. Gunnar Bjornsson (Gothenburg) on contextualism about 'ought'.

4 November 2009 room 116, 2pm. More of a good thing is better (and more of a bad thing is worse). Bart Geurts, Radboud University Nijmegen. Abstract

28 October 2009 2pm. Chandler House Room G15. "Conditional Propositions". Daniel Rothschild, Oxford. (Joint philosophy/pragmatics seminar)

21 October 2009. 3pm. Why word meanings might not be concepts. Timothy Pritchard (Kings College London). Abstract

7th October 2009 Infant pragmatic development, led by Richard Breheny

Background Reading:

 Infants' perseverative search errors are induced by pragmatic misinterpretation (Topal et al) Alternative DOI Link

 Natural pedagogy (Csibra and Gergely)

 Early cortical specialization for face-to-face communication in human infants. Grossman et al. [Link removed]

3rd June 2009 Camp, E. & Hawthorne, J. (2008). Sarcastic 'like':A case study in the interfact of syntax and semantics;Alternative DOI Link

27th May 2009 Borg, Emma. (Forthcoming). On Three Theories of Implicature: Default Theory, Relevance Theory and Minimalism

25th March 2009 Leslie, S-J. (2009). “if ”, “unless”, and quantification.

Background Reading:

 Stalnaker, Robert. 1981. A defense of conditional excluded middle. In Ifs: conditionals, belief, decision, chance and time, ed. R. Stalnaker W. Harper and G. Pearce, 87–104. Dordrecht:Reidel

 Higginbotham, J. (2003). Conditionals and compositionality. In Hawthorne, J. and Zimmerman, D., editors, Language and Philosophical Linguistics, volume 17 of Philosophical Perspectives. Blackwell.

 von Fintel, K. and Iatridou, S. (2002). If and when If -clauses can restrict quantifiers. ms., MIT.

18th March 2009 Barr, Dale J. (2008). Pragmatic expectation and linguistic evidence: Listeners anticipate but do not integrate common ground; Alternative DOI Link

11th March 2009 The Semantics of Non-Declaratives, led by Mark Jary.

25th February 2009 Neale, Stephen (2007). Heavy Hands, Magic and Scene-Reading Traps

4th February 2009 Travis, Charles (2006). Insensitive Semantics.