SEMANTICS III (Ling 532)
FALL 2015
Recent Advances in Experimental Semantics and Pragmatics

Instructor: Kristen Syrett (kristen.syrett (at) rutgers.edu)

Classes: Mondays 1:15 -4:15 pm, Linguistics Department (18 Seminary Place), room 108
Office hours: by appointment (in person in my office on CAC, my lab on Busch, or via Skype)

Course Objectives
• You will obtain a solid background in recent experimental research (covering the last 10-15 years) done in the Linguistic fields of Semantics, Pragmatics, and Psycholinguistics.
• You will learn to formulate a hypothesis based on claims in the theoretical literature, and make predictions about observable data in an experiment with human participants.
• You will become acquainted with a range of experimental methodologies for use with human participants.
• You will be able to identify strengths and weaknesses of experimental research, and written summaries of such research (papers and abstracts).
• You will become acquainted with reasons for collaborative and interdisciplinary experimental research.
• You will be able to write a paper modeling the structure of an experimental article.
• You will take the online CITI Human Subjects Certification Course, in order to be certified to conduct experiments with humans, and appreciate the ethical reasons for why we have an Institutional Review Board (IRB) for research.

Your requirements
(1) Class Presentation on a Predetermined Topic
Each of you will present one paper/topic from the list of papers and topics that follows, with my guidance. All presentations must be done via slides! You will not be allowed to use handouts. You may use Powerpoint, Endnote, LaTex/Beamer, Prezi, or whatever your presentation mode of choice is. Please do not print slide handouts for the class! You will meet with me the week before you are assigned to present with a draft of your presentation ready to discuss with me, and we will work together on developing your presentation. Everyone who is enrolled or auditing is required to complete this component! Sign up for a class topic ASAP!

(2) Participation in a Linguistics Experiment
Each of you is required to join the SONA experiment system online, and sign up to participate in an experiment (either online or in my lab). This can take place any time between October 1 and December 1. (Because this is a class requirement, we won’t use your data!)

(3) Final Experimental Project – Presentation and Paper
Each of you will propose an experimental project and write a final paper outlining an experiment (or small set of experiments) based on a topic, theoretical background, and/or experimental material discussed in class. The experiment(s) proposed should be in response to a theoretical puzzle, observation about a linguistic phenomenon, or a well-articulated open question. If you
are formerly enrolled in the class and/or are doing an experimental QP or dissertation with me, you are required to complete this component!

**Important Deadlines**

Experimental project idea (2- to 3-page summary): \[ \text{October 19} \]
Statement of hypotheses, proposal of methodology, and list of references: \[ \text{November 2} \]
1- to 2-page theoretical summary, outline of experiment, sample stimuli: \[ \text{November 23} \]
Draft of final presentation slides: \[ \text{November 30} \]
Final paper: \[ \text{December 14} \]

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Readings</th>
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| 9/8 (Tues) | Introduction to Experimental Research  
Quantification and Scope | Required  
Lidz & Musolino (2002)  
If you haven’t already, take the CITI Human Subjects certification course: [https://orra.rutgers.edu/citi](https://orra.rutgers.edu/citi)  
Optional  
Brasoveanu & Dotlačil (2015), Gualmini et al. (2008) |
| 9/14 | Quantifier Raising, ACD | Required  
Syrett & Lidz (2011); Syrett (2015); Kennedy (1997)  
Optional  
Hackl et al. (2012); Szabolcsi (2014) |
| 9/21 | Gradable Adjectives and Vagueness  
Presenter: Vera Gor | Required  
Frazier et al. (2008); Kennedy (2007); Syrett et al. (2010))  
Optional  
McNally (2011); Solt (2015) |
| 9/28 | Definiteness  
Presenter: Luca Iacoponi | Required  
Caponigro et al. (2012); Schwarz (2015)  
Optional  
Strawson (1950) |
| 10/5 | Presuppositions and Accommodation  
Presenters: Diti Bhadra, Nick Winter | Required  
Chemla (2009); Schwarz (2007)  
Optional  
Chemla & Bott (2011); Stalnaker (1974) |
| 10/12 | At-Issueness, Appositives  
Presenter: Peter van Elswyk | Required  
Harris & Potts (2009); Syrett & Koev (2015); Potts (2011)  
Optional  
Anderbois et al. (2010); Simons et al. (2010) |
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<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Presenters</th>
<th>Required</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10/19</td>
<td>Scalar Implicatures</td>
<td>Sarah Hansen, Augustina Owusu</td>
<td>Bott &amp; Noveck (2004); Breheny et al. (2012)</td>
<td>Breheny et al. (2005); van Tiel et al. (to appear); Horn (2008)</td>
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<td>11/2</td>
<td>Collectivity, Distributivity, Plurality</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>Schwarzschild (1996); Syrett &amp; Musolino (to appear)</td>
<td>Frazier et al. (1999); Syrett &amp; Musolino (2013)</td>
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<td>11/23</td>
<td>No class!</td>
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<td>12/7</td>
<td>Final Presentations (10 mins each)</td>
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Note:  
Do not panic when you look at this list. There’s no way on God’s green earth that we’re going to get through all of these readings! I’m providing you with a rather comprehensive list of key papers that represent work done on the topics we’re covering, so that if you’re interested in doing more with any of these topics, you’ll have many key references at your fingertips.

Required and optional readings for each week are in **bold**. The others are for your reference.

### TOPICS AND READINGS

#### Quantification and Scope

**Experimental Papers**


**Theoretical Background**


#### Quantifier Raising and Antecedent-Contained Deletion

**Experimental Papers**


**Theoretical Background**

Cecchetto, Carlo. Explaining the locality conditions of QR: Consequences for the theory of phases. *Natural Language Semantics*, 12, 345-397.


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**Graded Adjectives and Vagueness**

**Experimental Papers**


Theoretical Background

Definiteness

*Experimental Papers*

Theoretical Background

Presuppositions and Accommodation

*Experimental Papers*


**Theoretical Background**

### (not) At-Issueness and Appositives

**Experimental Papers**

**Theoretical Background**


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### Scalar Implicatures


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### Theoretical Background


and 4.

## Embedded Scalar Implicatures

### Experimental Papers

### Theoretical Background

## Collectivity, Distributivity, and Plurality

### Experimental Papers
**Theoretical Background**

Lasersohn


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**Numerals**

*Experimental Papers*
Huang, Ti-Ting, Spelke, Elizabeth, & Snedeker, Jesse. (2013). What exactly do numbers mean? *Language Learning and Development,* 9, 105-129.


*Theoretical Background*


**Theoretical Background**


**Most**

*Experimental Papers*


We unfortunately won’t have time to cover the following topics, but they fit in the course theme. I have included the list here and the readings on Sakai, so you have the references.

### Embedded Questions

**Experimental Papers**

**Theoretical Background**

### More and the Mass/Count Distinction

**Experimental Papers**

**Theoretical Background**

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*Theoretical Background*
[Chapter 1]
Events and Grammar, 70, 53-103.

Scalar Implicatures in Child Language Acquisition

Experimental Papers