

# Seminar in Syntax - Spring 2018

## Agreement at the interfaces

### Course Information

Course #: 16:615:515

Time & place: Wed 5:50–12:50pm (Schedule needs to be flexible due to job talks)

18 Seminary Pl Rm 108

Website: On Sakai

Instructor: Troy Messick (Rm 305)

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Office hours: Tues 10:00am–12:00pm and by appointment

### Overview and goals

This course is an advanced seminar in theoretical and comparative syntax. The overarching topic of the course will be on the phenomenon of agreement in a broad sense (i.e., looking at “agreement” beyond predicate-argument agreement). Special focus will be placed on how the operations that underlie agreement interact with the morphological/phonological and semantic interfaces. Topics covered will include: agreement with pseudo-partitive and quantifier partitive DPs, semantic agreement and the agreement hierarchy effects, the relationship between agreement and binding (does one exist?), agreement shifting, agreement with conjuncts and disjuncts and the role of linearity in agreement. Other topics not listed here can be added substituted based on student interest.

The goal of the course is to acquaint the student with cutting edge research on the topic and also to develop their own research ideas and programs.

### Structure of the course and requirements

The course will consist of weekly lectures with plenty of time devoted to discussion and questions. Based on student interest, some weeks will be student lead reading group style presentations on a paper of interest. The last week will be devoted to student presentation of their research project.

Enrolled students must meet the following requirements:

- (1) Lead two (2) discussions during the course of the semester
- (2) Give one (1) presentation of their research project
- (3) A conference style abstract of their research project
- (4) A squib on their research project

As this is an advanced level course, research papers/project need to go beyond just a literature review and must represent original research and critical thinking.

Grades will be determined based on the fulfillment of these requirements along with attendance and participation during the weekly lectures. If you must miss class, please let me know beforehand.

## Readings

- Ackema, Peter & Ad Neeleman. 2013. Subset controllers in agree relations. *Morphology* 23:291-323.
- Anand, Pranav. 2006. *De De Se*. Doctoral dissertation, MIT.
- Anand, Pranav & Andrew Nevins. Shift operators in changing contexts. *Proceedings of SALT XIV* ed. by R. Young, 20-37. Cornell University: Ithaca, NY.
- Bale, Alan. 2014. To agree without AGREE: The case for semantic agreement. *Proceedings of NELS 43* ed. by Hsin-Lun Huang, Ethan Poole, & Amanda Rysling. 13-24. GLSA: Amherst.
- Bobaljik, Jonathan & Cynthia Zocca. 2011. Gender Markedness: The anatomy of a counter-example. *Morphology* 21(2):141-166.
- Bobaljik, Jonathan. 2008. Missing Persons: A case study in morphological universals. *The Linguistic Review* 25(1-2):203-230.
- Chomsky, Noam. 2000. Minimalist inquires: The framework. In *Step by step: Essays in minimalist syntax in honor of Howard Lasnik* ed. by Roger Martins, David Michaels & Juan Uriagereka, 89-155. MIT Press: Cambridge.
- Chomsky, Noam. 2001. Derivation by phase. In *Ken Hale: A life in language*, ed. by Michael Kenstowicz, 1-52. MIT Press: Cambridge.
- Collins, Chris & Paul Postal. 2012. *Imposters: A study of pronominal agreement*. MIT Press: Cambridge.
- Corbett, G. G. 1979. The agreement hierarchy. *Journal of Linguistics* 15:203-224.
- den Dikken, Marcel. 2001. "Plurilinguals", pronouns and quirky agreement. *The Linguistic Review* 18:19-41.
- Dowty, David & Pauline Jacobson. 1988. Agreement as a semantic phenomenon. In *Proceedings of ESCOL 5*. 95-108.
- Heim, Irene. 2008. Features on bound pronouns. In *Phi Theory: Phi-features across modules and interfaces*, ed. by Daniel Harbour, David Adger & Susana Bejar, 35-56. OUP.
- Höhn, Georg. 2016. Unagreement is an illusion. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 34(2): 543-592.
- Jacobson, Pauline. 2012. Direct compositionality and "uninterpretability": The case of (sometimes) "uninterpretable" features on pronouns. *Journal of Semantics* 29:305-343.
- Johnson, Kyle. 2012. Pronouns vs. definite descriptions. In *Generative Linguistics and Acquisition: Studies in honor of Nina M. Hyams*, ed. by J. Grinstead & J. Rothman, 157-184. John Benjamins.
- Kratzer, Angelika. 1998. More structural analogies between pronouns and tenses. *Proceedings of SALT VIII*, ed. by D. Strolovitch & A. Lawson. Cornell University: Ithaca, NY.

- Kratzer, Angelika. 2009. Making a pronoun: Fake indexicals as a window into the properties of pronouns. *Linguistic Inquiry* 40(2):187-237.
- Landau, Idan. 2016. DP-internal semantic agreement: A configurational analysis. *Natural Language & Linguistic Theory* 34(3): 975-1020.
- Merchant, Jason. 2014. Gender mismatches under nominal ellipsis. *Lingua* 151:9-32.
- Messick, Troy. 2016. Shifty agreement in embedded contexts and a theory of embedded pronouns. Ms., UConn/UMass.
- Moskal, Beata. Limits on allomorphy: A case study in nominal suppletion. *Linguistic Inquiry* 46:376-387.
- Patel-Grosz, Pritty & Patrick Grosz. to appear. Revisiting pronominal typology. *Linguistic Inquiry*.
- Pesetsky, David. 2013. *Russian case morphology and the syntactic categories*. MIT Press: Cambridge.
- Rullmann, Hotze. 2004. First and second person pronouns as bound variables. *Linguistic Inquiry* 35:159-168.
- Sauerland, Uli & Paul Elbourne. 2002. Total reconstruction, PF movement and derivational order. *Linguistic Inquiry* 33(2):283-319.
- Schlenker, Philippe. 2003a. Indexicality, logophoricity and plural pronouns. In *Research in Afroasiatic Grammar II* ed. by Jacqueline Lecarme, 409-428. John Benjamins.
- Schlenker, Philippe. 2003b. A plea for monsters. *Linguistics & Philosophy* 26(1):29-120.
- Schlenker, Philippe. 2005. Minimize Restrictors! (Notes on definite descriptions, Condition C and epithets). *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 9*.
- Shklovsky, Kirill & Yasutada Sudo. 2014. The syntax of monsters. *Linguistic Inquiry* 45(3): 381-402.
- Smith, Peter. 2013. The syntax of semantic agreement in British English. Ms., UConn.
- von Stechow, Armin. 2003. Feature deletion under semantic binding. *Proceedings of NELS 33*.
- Sudo, Yasutada. 2014. Dependent plural pronouns with skolemized choice functions. *Natural Language Semantics* 22(3):265-297.
- Sudo, Yasutada & Giorgos Spathas. 2016. Natural Gender and interpretation in Greek. Ms. UCL & Humboldt-Universität
- Sundaresan, Sandhya. 2012. A plea for syntax and a return to first principles: Monstrous agreement in Tamil. *Proceedings of SALT 21*:674-693.
- Wechsler, Stephen. 2006. Why are the lazy so agreeable? In *Between 40 and 60 puzzles for Krifka*.
- Wechsler, Stephen & Larisa Zlatić. 2000. A theory of agreement and its application in Serbo-Croatian. *Language* 76(4):799-832.