

Semantics 4/Seminar in Semantics

LING 665/765

Topics in the semantics of DP

Winter 2025
Tu, Th 8:35–10:25
1085 Pen eld, R. 117

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Office hours : W 2:00-3:00pm (or by appointment)

Course content

Building on background established in Semantics 3, this year's edition of Semantics 4/Seminar in Semantics will explore a range of themes that arise in the semantics DP, including the notions of

particular prompt us to study copular sentences and so-called concealed questions.

The list below suggests specific topics (likely more than we will actually be able to cover in detail in class) and provides selected references as possible starting points.

- Connectivity in relative clauses (Schenner 2019; ...)
- Degree and maximality (von Stechow et al. 2014; ...)
- Degree and maximization failure (Fox & Hackl 2006; Fox 2010; ...)
- Degree DPs and predication (Scontras 2017; Alonso-Ovalle & Schwarz 2023, 2024a,b; ...)
- Scope within degree DPs (Alonso-Ovalle & Schwarz 2024a; cf. Rullmann 1995, ch. 4; ...)
- Functional DPs (Heim 2003; Alonso-Ovalle ...)
- Degree DPs in copular sentences (Heycock 2021; ...)
- ...

Requirements and evaluation

Requirements

- Semantics 4: homework assignments, 2 presentations, nal paper
- Seminar in Semantics: homework assignments, 1 presentation

Evaluation

Semantics 4		Seminar in Semantics	
homework assignments:	30%	homework assignments:	40%
presentations:	10%	presentation(s)	60%
paper:	60%		

WEEK 10		
Tu 03/18	De niteness: strength-based maximality in degree DPs	von Fintel et al. (2014)
Th 03/20		
WEEK 11		
Tu 03/25	TBA	
Th 03/27 ④		
WEEK 12		
Tu 04/01	TBA	
Th 04/03		
WEEK 13		
Tu 04/08	Student presentations II: all students	
Th 04/10		

Course rules

Academic integrity

McGill University values academic integrity. Therefore, all students must understand the meaning and consequences of cheating, plagiarism and other academic offences under the code of student conduct and disciplinary procedures (see <http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity> for more information).

L'université McGill attache une haute importance à l'honnêteté académique. Il incombe par conséquent à tous les étudiants de comprendre ce que l'on entend par tricherie, plagiat et autres infractions académiques, ainsi que les conséquences que peuvent avoir de telles actions, selon le Code de conduite de l'étudiant et des procédures disciplinaires (pour de plus amples renseignements, veuillez consulter le site <http://www.mcgill.ca/integrity>).

Assignments may be done in groups. However, a group may contain a maximum of three students. Also, each student must turn in a separate assignment **written up individually and independently**. If you worked in a group, you must provide the names of the students who you worked with on the first page of your assignment.

Inclusiveness

As instructors of this course, I endeavor to provide an inclusive learning environment. However, if you experience barriers to learning in this course, do not hesitate to discuss these with us and [Student Accessibility and Achievement](#).

References

- Alonso-Ovalle, Luis, & Bernhard Schwarz. 2023. Structural ambiguity in pseudo-partitives: the case of quantity nouns. In *Proceedings of Semantics and Linguistic Theory (SALT) 33*, ed. Juhya Kim & Burak Oney. Linguistic Society of America.
- Alonso-Ovalle, Luis, & Bernhard Schwarz. 2024a. On the natural language metaphysics of numbers. In *Proceedings of Sinn und Bedeutung 28*, ed. Kristina Liefke, Daniel Gutzmann, Agata Renans, & Tatjana Scherer, 18–35.

