



Center for Gesture, Sign, and Language Spring Workshop

Gesture Projection and Co-suppositions

Philippe Schlenker (Institut Jean-Nicod, Paris; New York University)

Friday, May 8, 9-11am

Cochrane-Woods Arts Center, Room 156

5540 S Greenwood Ave. (enter through courtyard)

Please [RSVP](#) for the workshop.



Co-speech gestures provide a way to enrich the meaning of spoken language utterances. We argue that some co-speech gestures should be analyzed within a presuppositional framework, albeit with a twist. In standard theories, a presupposition trigger pp' (e.g. *it stopped raining*) with presupposition p (*it rained*) and assertive component p' (*it doesn't now rain*) comes with a requirement that p should be entailed by the local context of pp' . By contrast, in the cases we consider an expression p co-occurring with a co-speech gesture G with content g comes with the requirement that the local context p should guarantee that p entails g ; in other words, the co-speech gesture triggers an 'assertion-dependent presupposition', which is conditionalized on the assertive component of the expression it modifies; this is what we call a 'co-supposition'. We show that this analysis can be combined with a predictive analysis of local contexts (e.g. Schlenker 2009) to account for some complex patterns of gesture projection in quantified and in attitudinal contexts. We will also suggest that 'co-suppositions' could have applications beyond gesture projection; if so, this is a case in which gesture semantics could illuminate other areas of formal semantics.

Relevant readings:

[Schlenker, to appear](#) [Squib]

Free and open to the public. Persons with disabilities who need an accommodation in order to participate in this event should contact Laura Tharsen at ltharsen@uchicago.edu. Organized by [The Center for Gesture, Sign, and Language](#) with support from the [Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society](#).