



Cukier-Goldstein-Goren Center for Mind, Cognition and Language,
School of Philosophy, Linguistics and Science Studies,
Department of Linguistics

THURSDAY INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLOQUIUM

Thursday 22/02/2024

16:15-17:45

Ido Benbaji, MIT

Frontal lecture in Webb 103

Specific-opaque readings and the temporal interpretation of noun phrases

Szabó (2010,2011) argues that in addition to their *de dicto*, *de re* and *third* readings, DPs in intensional contexts can have a fourth, *specific-opaque* reading in which their determiner scopes above an intensional operator while their restrictor is nevertheless interpreted opaquely, in the intensional environment created by the operator. Szabó provides examples of *specific-opaque* readings relative to the three main intensional operators, namely, attitudes, modals and tense, as evidence that natural language makes available a general, unrestricted mechanism to derive such "split" readings for DPs in intensional environments. We focus on *specific-opaque* readings relative to *modals* and *tense* and show that neither supports that conclusion; i.e., that both are restricted in meaningful ways and should be derived without a general mechanism. The discussion serves to highlight the ways in which modal and temporal operators differ with respect to the availability of the *specific-opaque* reading for DPs in the intensional environments that they create, providing new evidence that worlds and times differ in the kind of mechanisms that introduce them to the semantic composition.



Click [here](#) to see the colloquium program.