

The Language, Logic and Cognition Center (**LLCC**)
is pleased to announce a series of 6 lectures
to be held on **December 15, 17, 22, 24, 29, 31**
(Mondays and Wednesdays) at **12:30-16:00**
The meetings will take place in **room 200**,
The Australian Research and Graduate Studies Complex,
School of Education, Mount Scopus Campus

Multidominance in Movement and Ellipsis

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Syllabus:

This class will explore a theory of movement that involves multidominant representations. This is a version of the “copy” theory of movement in which “copy” is defined as giving one term two positions in a syntactic representation. Nunes (1995, 1996) argues that we can derive from the linearization algorithm the fact that the semantic object that is left by movement (the “trace”) is always silent, if we adopt a suitable copy theory of movement. What’s necessary is defining copy so that the linearization algorithm cannot distinguish one copy from another. One way of doing that is to define copy as a term in two (or more) syntactic positions. We will develop this idea, which will involve designing a new linearization algorithm and finding a way of characterizing the cases where traces are pronounced.

The largest problem for this method of defining copy is that it does not lend itself to the standard semantics for traces, which is “trace conversion” (see, Engdahl 1980, Fox 1999, 2003). We will try to fit the trace conversion model to a multidominant definition of copies with the idea that what moves is always just the material that constitutes the restriction on a quantification (see Johnson 2012). With this model in place, we will look at some of the classic problems in movement theory: how can the difference between overt and covert movement be modeled, what does successive cyclic movement look like, can we derive differences in reconstruction effects from the semantic type of term moving, can we characterize the differences between A and \bar{A} movement, can we make progress on limiting how movement operations combine.

Course Credit:

Students can earn 2 credit points for participating in the series. Please register to course #36861 at the Linguistics department administrative secretary. For further questions write to llcc@mail.huji.ac.il.

If you would like to be notified about similar events in the future, please write to llcc@mail.huji.ac.il to be added to the Language, Logic and Cognition Center mailing list.