

The Language, Logic and Cognition Center
is pleased to announce a series of 6 lectures
to be held on **May 7, 12, 14, 19, 21**
at **12:30-16:00** (Mondays) and **10:30-14:00** (Wednesdays)
(an additional meeting will be scheduled with participants).
The meetings will take place in **room 200**,
The Australian Research and Graduate Studies Complex,
School of Education, Mount Scopus Campus

Modality and Dynamics

Seth Yalcin
(UC Berkeley)

Syllabus:

This is an advanced introduction to some recent work on the semantics of modality in natural language. We will pay special attention to:

- (1) interactions of modals with quantifiers and other determiner phrases, including binding into attitude contexts;
- (2) the question whether, how and where there might be object-language reference to (or quantification over) possibilities (the question of the “expressive power” of modal discourse);
- (3) the role of epistemic modality in the debate about static versus dynamic approaches to compositional semantics.

Prerequisites:

A basic comfort with formal semantics.

Students can earn 1 credit point for participating in the series. Please register to course # 36839 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.

Tentative reading schedule:

Wed, May 7: Modality de dicto, information-sensitivity

Kratzer (1981/2012) 'The Notional Category of Modality'

Yalcin (2007) 'Epistemic Modals'

Kolodny and MacFarlane (2010) 'Ifs and Oughts'

optional background: von Fintel and Heim (2011) 'Modality' (notes)

Mon, May 12: Quantifying in: binding variables across modal contexts

von Fintel and Heim (2011) 'DPs and Scope in Modal Contexts' (notes)

Percus and Sauerland (2003) 'On the LFs of Attitude Reports'

Ninan (2012) 'Counterfactual Attitudes and Multi-centered Worlds'

Wed, May 14: World variables

von Fintel and Heim (2011) 'Beyond de dicto - de re: The Third Reading' (notes)

Schwarz (2012) 'Situation Pronouns in Determiner Phrases'

Mon, May 19: Quantification and modality dynamically

Groenendijk and Stokhof (1991) 'Two Theories of Dynamic Semantics'

Groenendijk, Stokhof, and Veltman (1996) 'Coreference and Modality'

Rothschild and Yalcin (unpublished) 'On the Dynamics of Conversation'

Wed, May 21: The modal dimension of reference

Yalcin (in progress) 'The Modality within Quantification'