

**Tel-Aviv University
The School of Philosophy, Linguistics and Science Studies
Department of Linguistics**

THURSDAY INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLOQUIUM

**Thursday 4.3.2021
16:15-17:45**

**Amir Anvari
IJN, École Normale Supérieure, Paris**

Type-driven local contexts

The need for and proper treatment of "local contexts" has been a topic of extensive research in the semantics / pragmatics interface. At the moment, two broad approaches to local contexts exist: the traditional approach couched in dynamic semantics (Heim 1983 and much subsequent work), which involves stipulation of "context change potentials" in the meanings of lexical items on a case by case basis, and the more recent procedural approach (Schlenker 2009), which relies on a general procedure to predict what the local context of a given environment will be on the basis of logical syntax and classical semantics. All else equal, the latter is preferable as it is less stipulative. However, several recent publications (Ingason 2016, Mandelkern & Romoli 2017, Chung 2019, Schlenker 2020) have argued that all is not well with the procedural approach. While these publications approach the question from different angles, they all converge of one fundamental finding: the reliance of the procedural approach on linear order is problematic. In this talk I will first focus on how local contexts are determined in quantificational structures, building on Anvari & Blumberg (to appear) and novel data. On this basis, I will propose that linear order needs to be replaced with a type-driven order according to which functions follow their arguments (similar to the reverse Polish notation). Equipped with this notion of order, I will attempt to resolve the problems discussed in the literature.

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