



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

THURSDAY INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLOQUIUM

Thursday 18/07/24

16:15-17:45

Webb 103

Idan Landau, Tel Aviv University

Argument Ellipsis: findings and puzzles

In this talk I present the current empirical landscape of Argument Ellipsis (AE) as seen from Hebrew, with occasional comparisons to AE in other languages. I start with standard diagnostics distinguishing AE from *pro* drop and from Null Complement Anaphora, leading to the strongest type of argument for AE, coming from subextraction. Then I go over evidence for tolerable mismatches between the antecedent and the elided constituent in cases of CP ellipsis, and relate them to similar indications from studies of sluicing that the domain of identity is smaller than the domain of ellipsis. I then proceed to propose a strongly derivational account of AE, based on *pro*-replacement. This account can derive a fundamental *semantic* restriction on AE, namely, that only arguments denoting individuals (type <e>) can be elided. The restriction holds across a number of unrelated languages, but interesting deviations are attested, yet to be explained. Finally, I sketch an alternative analysis of AE, based on the “Big DP” hypothesis, and evaluate its merits and challenges.

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

