



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

## THURSDAY INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLOQUIUM

Thursday 03/04/2025

16:15-17:45

Webb 103

**Inbal Kupperwasser, Tel Aviv University**

### **Language in social context: the effect of intergroup relations on pragmatic processing**

It has been widely shown that speakers' social characteristics are taken into account when processing the meaning of an utterance (e.g., Beltrama & Schwarz, 2021; Colston & Lee, 2004; Fairchild & Papafragou, 2018; Holtgraves, 1994; Katz & Pexman, 1997). However, limited research has explored the impact of interlocutors' social group membership on meaning processing. In this talk, I will briefly review work that considers interlocutors' social relationships as a factor influencing meaning comprehension. I will present findings demonstrating that intergroup interactions (i.e., interactions with individuals from different social groups) interfere with the processing of pragmatic meaning. Specifically, I will present a series of experiments conducted on typical scalar implicatures (i.e., using the word 'some'), and discuss more preliminary work on double negation. Additionally, I will provide evidence that this interference is mediated by cognitive abilities, particularly Theory of Mind. I will conclude by discussing how these results contribute to and extend current research on Social Meaning in linguistics, as well as their possible broader implications for real-world interactions.

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



Sagol School  
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