

intensional  
semantics



essays on  
irreality

**at the intersection of temporal & modal interpretation**

dissertation defense — 21 dec. 2020

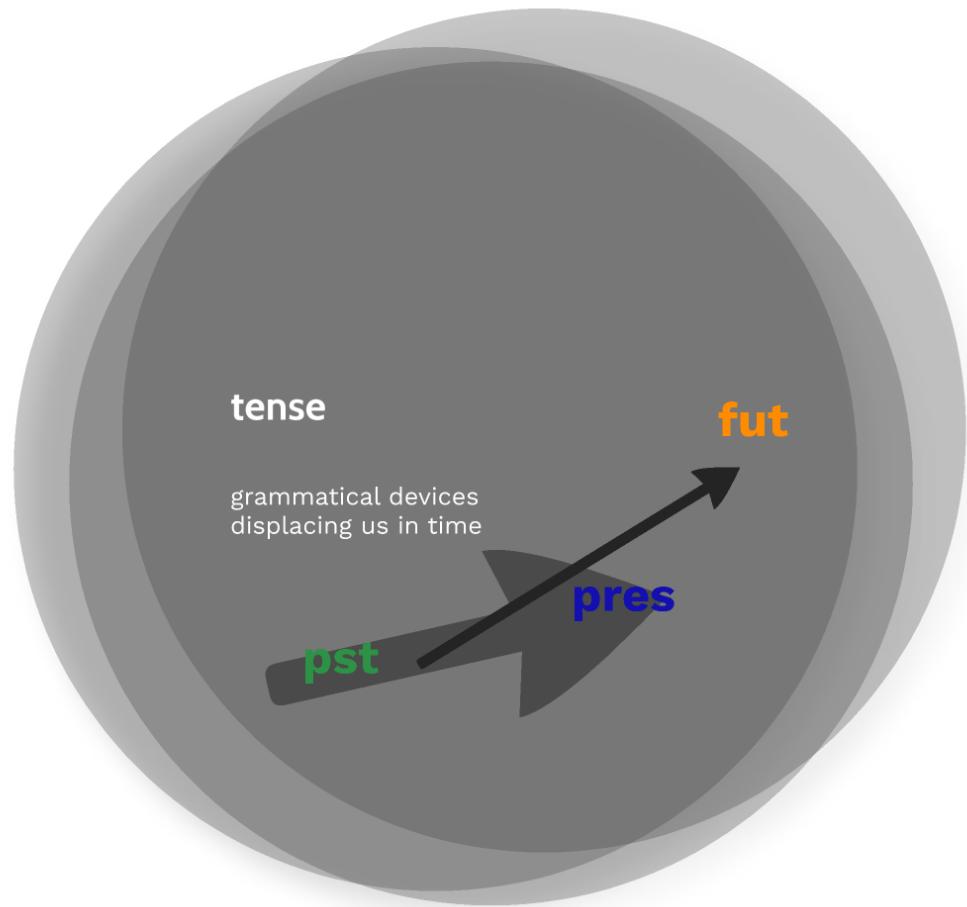
# intensional semantics

tense

modality

aspect

negation



# intensional semantics

tense

modality

aspect

negation

## modality



notions of realness:  
possibility, obligation,  
counterfactuality,  
necessity...

# intensional semantics

tense

modality

aspect

negation



# **aspect**

the structure of events  
in time



# intensional semantics

tense

modality

aspect

negation

## polarity & negation

opposition between  
linguistic expressions

"if p is false, NOT p is true"



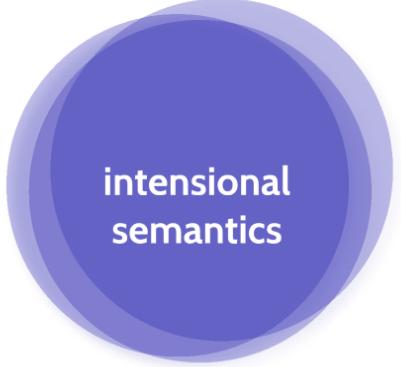
# intensional semantics

tense

modality

aspect

negation



intensional  
semantics



essays on  
irreality

**at the intersection of temporal & modal interpretation**

dissertation defense — 21 dec. 2020

# four essays on irreality

or rather on linguistic  
mechanisms for  
displacing us in  
possibility space

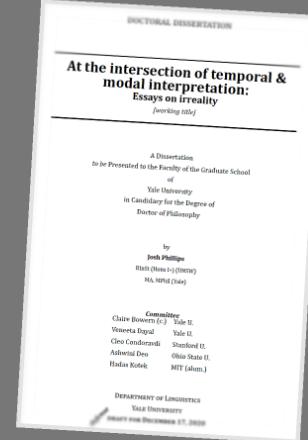
## 4 Yolŋu mood

12.

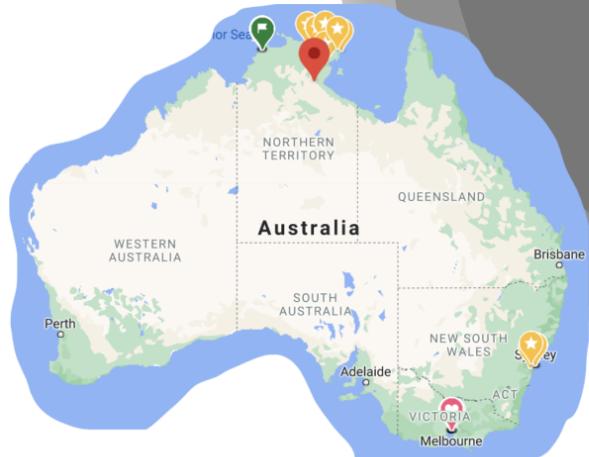
1  
apprehensional  
*bambai*

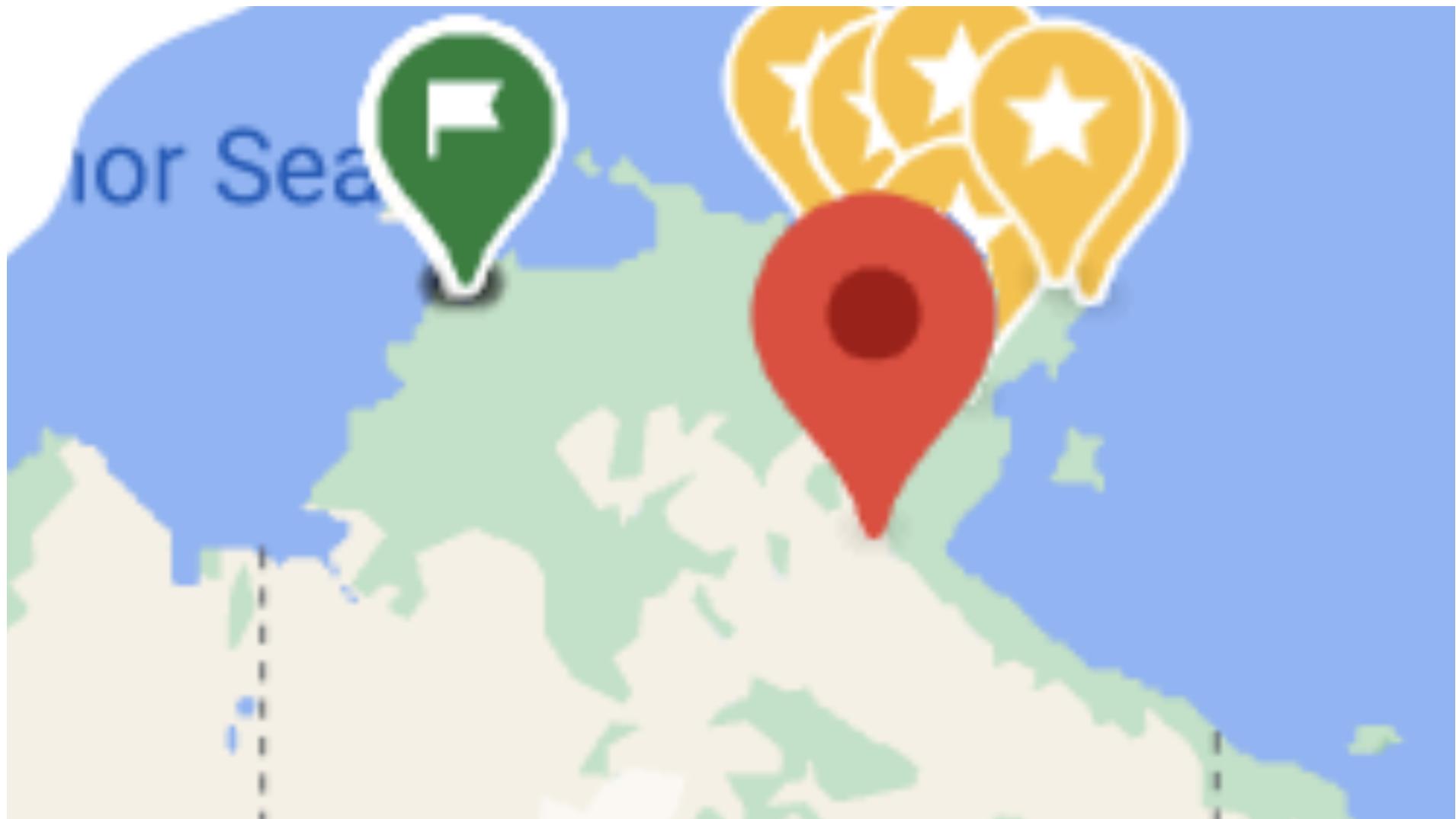
2  
discourse  
anaphoric  
*otherwise*

3  
the negative  
existential cycle



## The emergence of apprehensionality in Australian Kriol





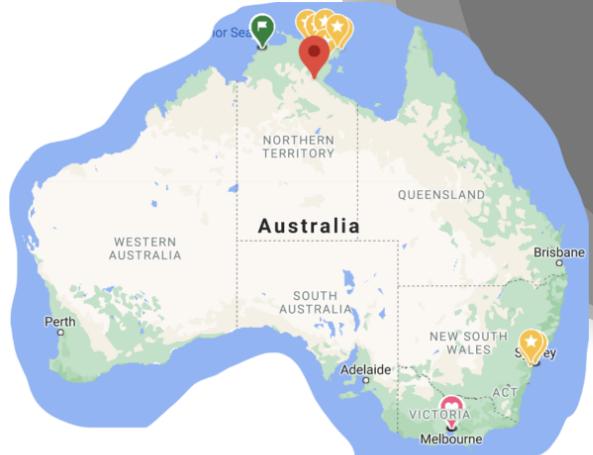
## The emergence of apprehensionality in Australian Kriol



## The emergence of apprehensionality in Australian Kriol



1) dad went to the shop *bambai* he came home to make dinner

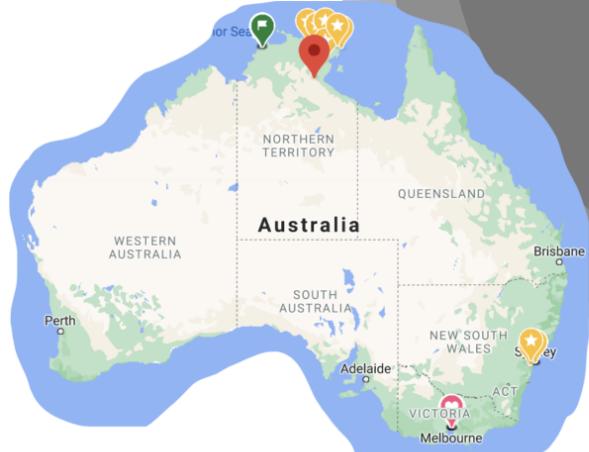


## The emergence of apprehensionality in Australian Kriol



1) dad went to the shop *bambai* he came home to make dinner

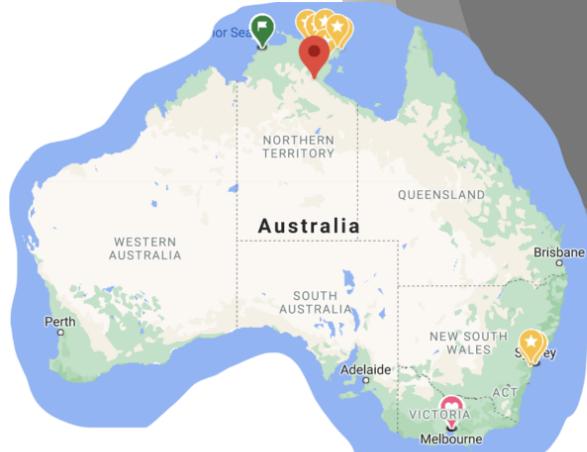
2) i had a cuppa late ln, *bambai* i would've passed out here at my desk



## The emergence of apprehensionality in Australian Kriol



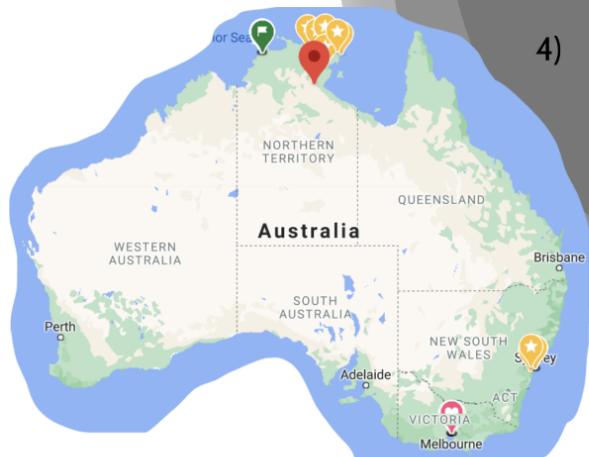
- 1) dad went to the shop *bambai* he came home to make dinner
- 2) i had a cuppa late ln, *bambai* i would've passed out here at my desk
- 3) I'm scared *bambai* snake might bite mi



## The emergence of apprehensionality in Australian Kriol



- 1) dad went to the shop *bambai* he came home to make dinner
- 2) i had a cuppa late ln, *bambai* i would've passed out here at my desk
- 3) I'm scared *bambai* snake might bite mi
- 4) D: bring bangardi along gajin!  
R: *bambai* we won't catch anything



# four essays on irreality

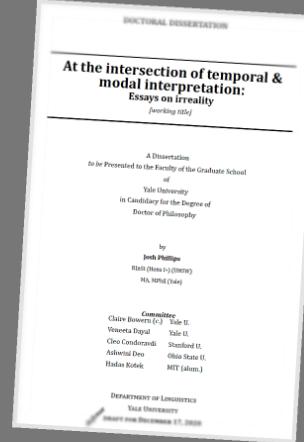
or rather on linguistic  
mechanisms for  
displacing us in  
possibility space

3  
the negative  
existential cycle

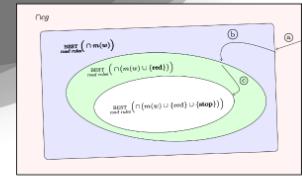
2  
discourse  
anaphoric  
*otherwise*

1  
apprehensional  
*bambai*

4  
Yolŋu mood

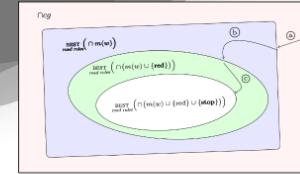


## discourse anaphora & dynamic interpretation



## discourse anaphora & dynamic interpretation

What does  $p$  otherwise  $q$  mean?  
...if not  $p$ , then  $q$ ?

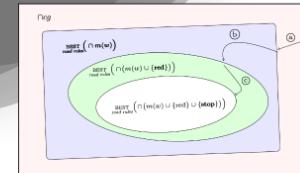


## discourse anaphora & dynamic interpretation

What does *p otherwise q* mean?  
...if not p, then q?



5) if the light's red, you stop!  
**otherwise...**

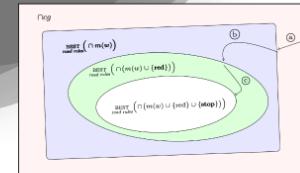


## discourse anaphora & dynamic interpretation

What does  $p$  *otherwise*  $q$  mean?  
...if not  $p$ , then  $q$ ?



- 5) if the light's red, you stop!  
**otherwise...**
- a) you'll get a ticket!



## discourse anaphora & dynamic interpretation

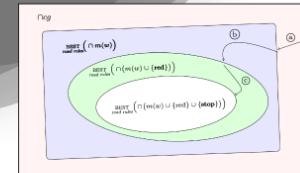
What does  $p$  *otherwise*  $q$  mean?

...if not  $p$ , then  $q$ ?



5) if the light's red, you stop!  
**otherwise...**

- a) you'll get a ticket!
- b) just keep going straight



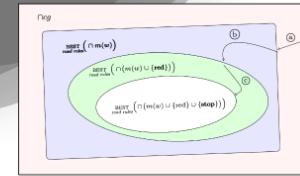
## discourse anaphora & dynamic interpretation

What does  $p$  otherwise  $q$  mean?  
...if not  $p$ , then  $q$ ?

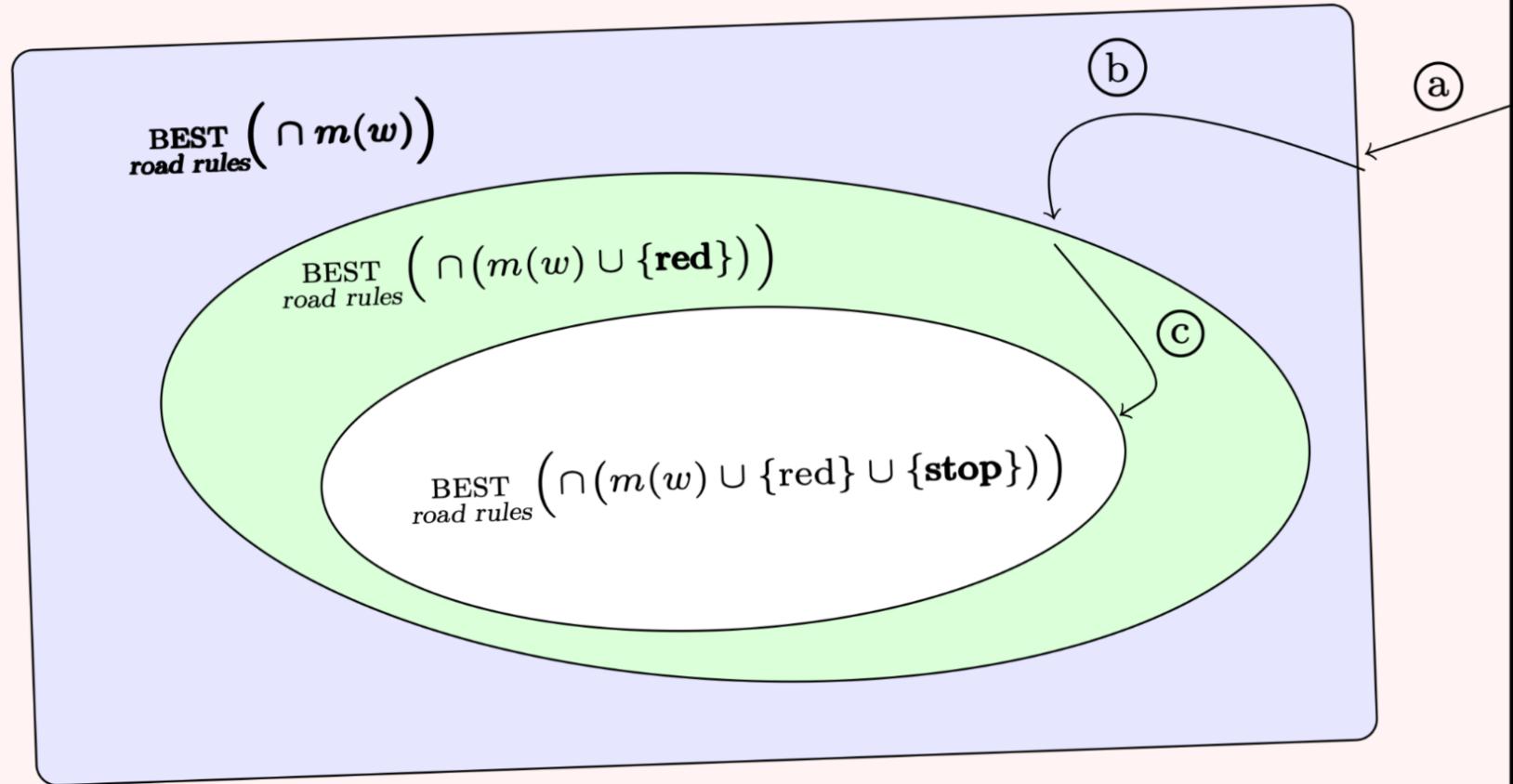


5) if the light's red, you stop!  
**otherwise...**

- a) you'll get a ticket!
- b) just keep going straight
- c) the roads would be total chaos



$\cap cg$



# four essays on irreality

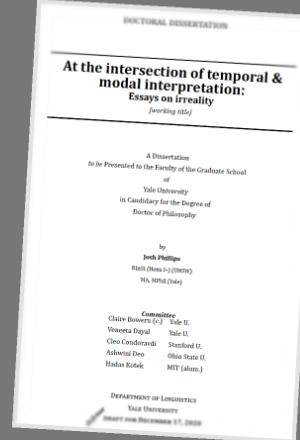
or rather on linguistic  
mechanisms for  
displacing us in  
possibility space

3  
the negative  
existential cycle

2  
discourse  
anaphoric  
*otherwise*

1  
apprehensional  
*bambai*

4  
Yolŋu mood

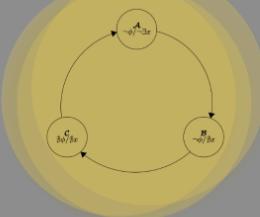


## a semantics for the NEC

*way! yaka ηatha (dhuwal) !*  
‘oi! (that) isn't food!’

*yaw' bäyŋu ηatha (dhuwal) !*  
‘ugh, there's no food (here)’

a unified  
semantics

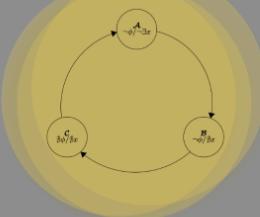


## a semantics for the NEC

*way! yaka ḷatha (dhuwal)!*  
‘oi! (that) isn't food!’       $\neg \text{FOOD}(x)$

*yaw' bäyŋu ḷatha (dhuwal)!*  
‘ugh, there's no food (here)’

a unified  
semantics



## a semantics for the NEC

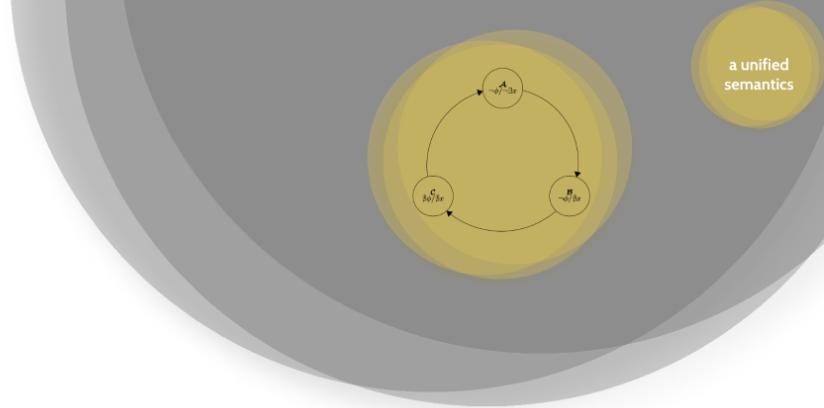
*way! yaka ḷatha (dhuwal)!*  
'oi! (that) isn't food!'

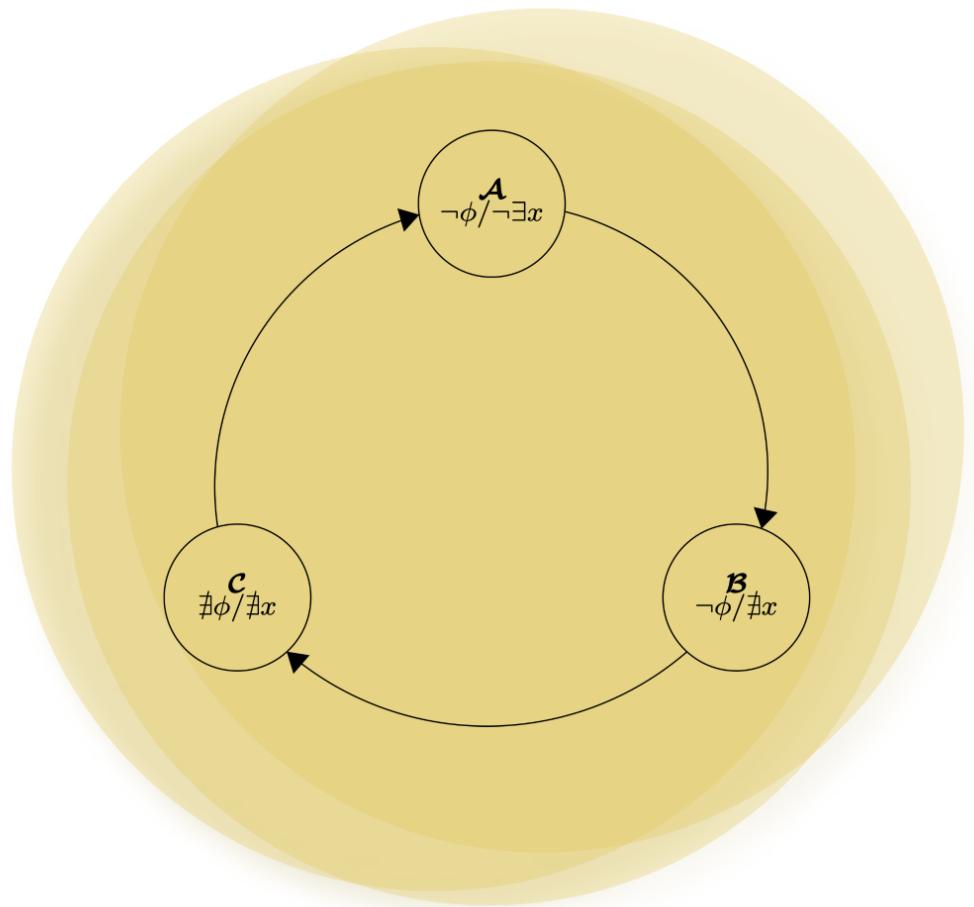
*yaw' bäyŋu ḷatha (dhuwal)!*  
'ugh, there's no food (here)'

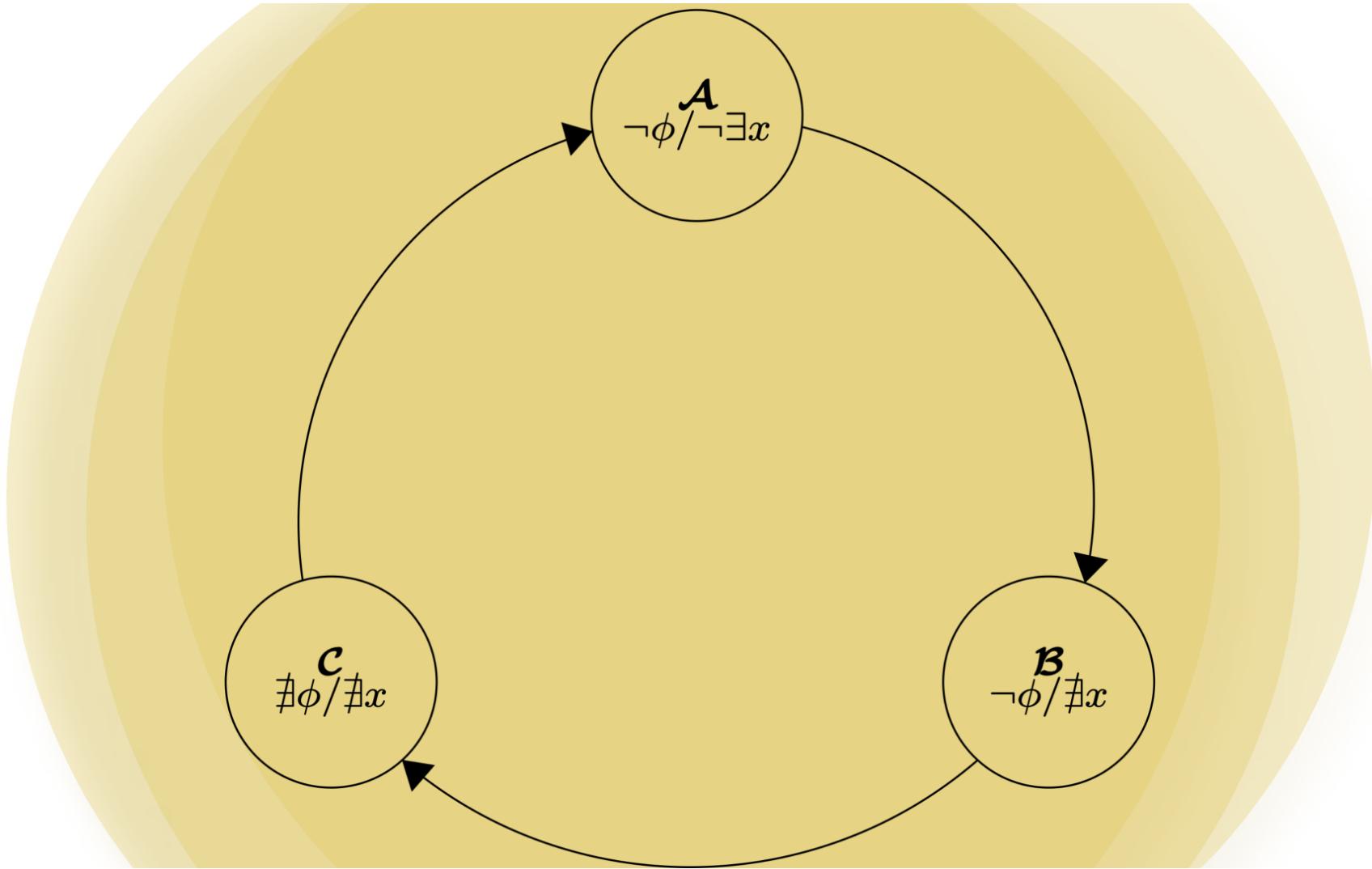
$\neg \text{FOOD}(x)$

$\nexists x [\text{food}(x) \wedge d_a(x)]$

a unified  
semantics







## a semantics for the NEC

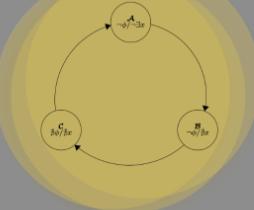
*way! yaka ḷatha (dhuwal)!*  
'oi! (that) isn't food!'

$\neg \text{FOOD}(x)$

*yaw' bäyŋu ḷatha (dhuwal)!*  
'ugh, there's no food (here)'

$\nexists x [\text{food}(x) \wedge d_a(x)]$

a unified  
semantics



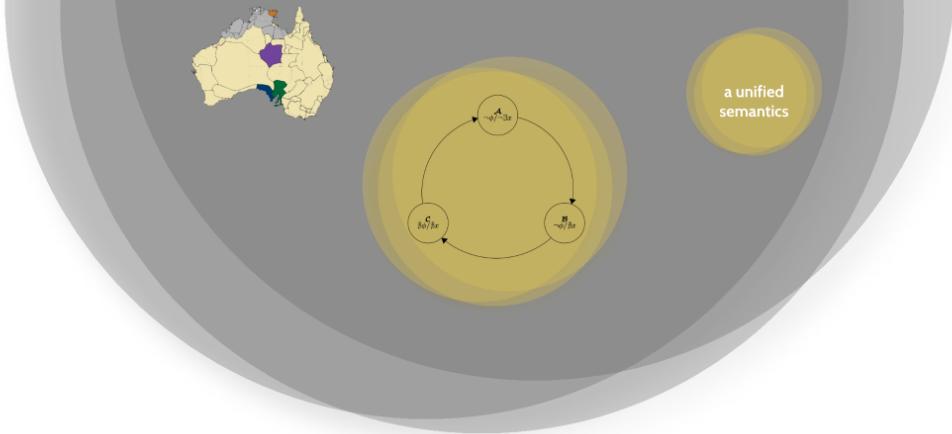
## a semantics for the N&C

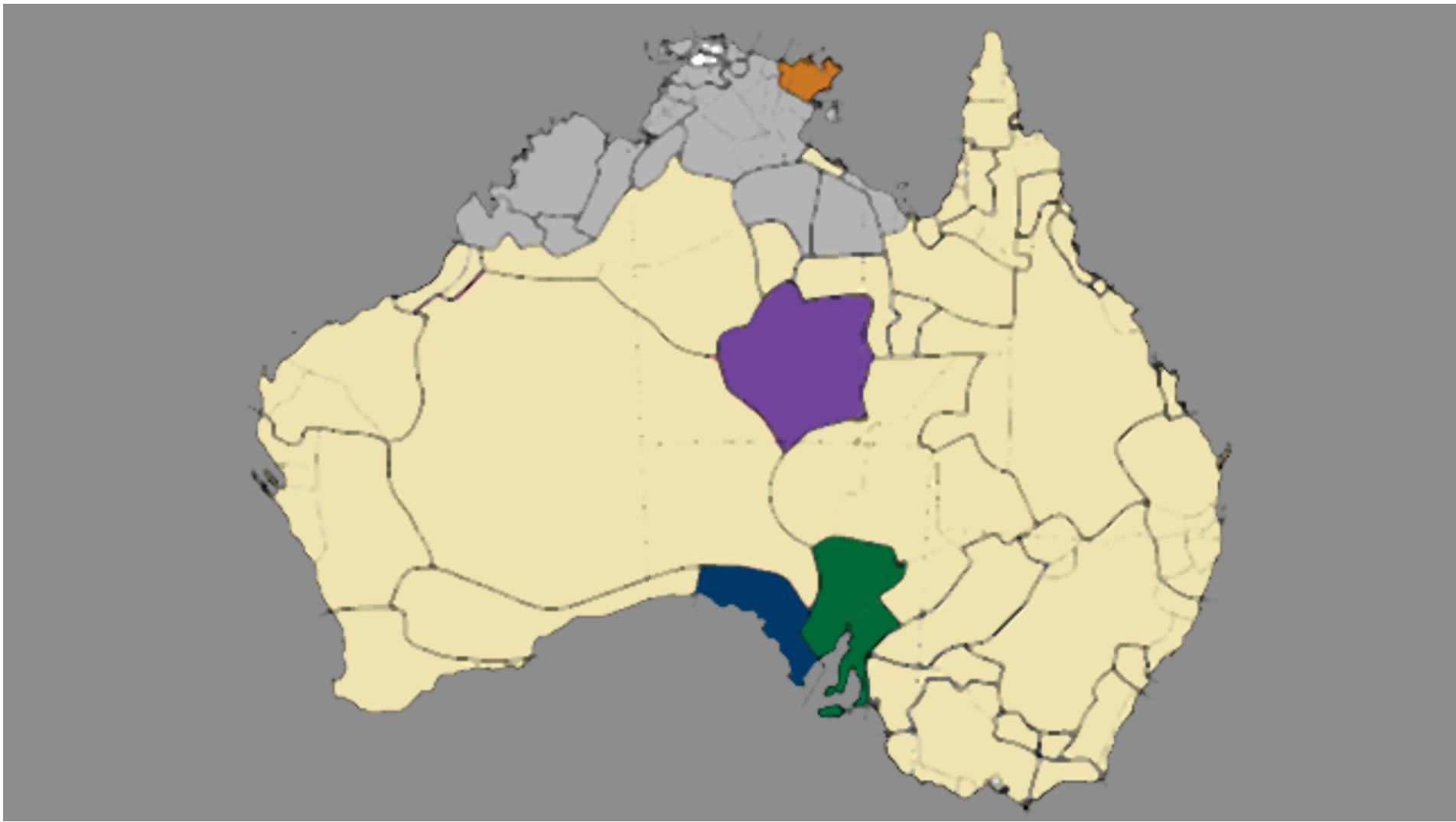
*way! yaka ḷathā (dhuwal)!*  
'oi! (that) isn't food!'

$\neg \text{FOOD}(x)$

*yaw' bäyŋu ḷathā (dhuwal)!*  
'ugh, there's no food (here)'

$\nexists x [\text{food}(x) \wedge d_a(x)]$





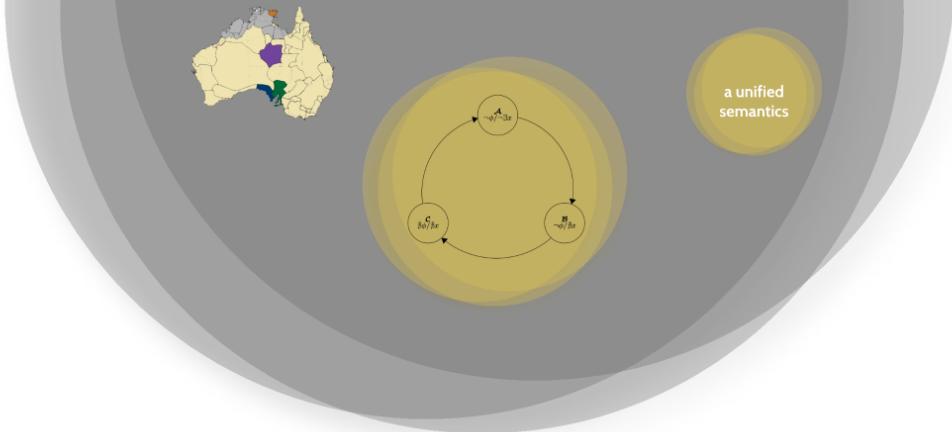
## a semantics for the N&C

*way! yaka ḷatha (dhuwal)!*  
'oi! (that) isn't food!'

$\neg \text{FOOD}(x)$

*yaw' bäyŋu ḷatha (dhuwal)!*  
'ugh, there's no food (here)'

$\nexists x [\text{food}(x) \wedge d_a(x)]$



$$[\![\mathbf{neg}\star]\!] = \lambda P_{\langle\sigma,t\rangle} \lambda Q_{\langle\sigma,t\rangle}. P \cap Q = \emptyset$$

NEG★	$\lambda P$ – pivot $\langle\sigma,t\rangle$	$\lambda Q$ – contextual domain $\langle\sigma,t\rangle$
PRIV	$\lambda x_e.P(x)$ set of entities $\langle e,t\rangle$	$\lambda y.\mathbf{loc}(st_c,y)$ entities in some location
PRIV $\varepsilon$	$\lambda e_\varepsilon.\mathcal{P}(e)$ set of events $\langle \varepsilon,t\rangle$	$\lambda e'.\mathbf{loc}_\varepsilon(st_c,e')$ events instantiated at some location
NEG	$\lambda w_s.p(w)$ set of worlds $\langle s,t\rangle$	$\lambda w'.\mathbb{C}(w*,w')$ worlds compatible with eval. world

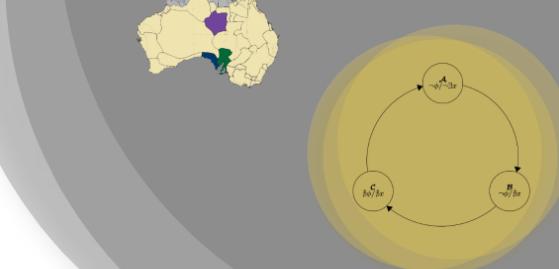
## a semantics for the N&C

*way! yaka ḷatha (dhuwal)!*  
'oi! (that) isn't food!'

$\neg \text{FOOD}(x)$

*yaw' bäyŋu ḷatha (dhuwal)!*  
'ugh, there's no food (here)'

$\nexists x [\text{food}(x) \wedge d_a(x)]$



a unified  
semantics

# four essays on irreality

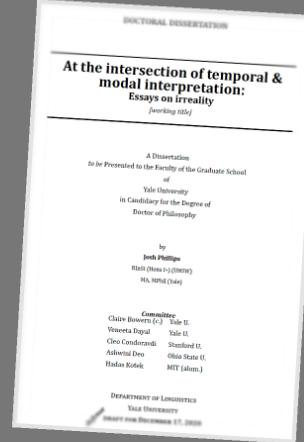
or rather on linguistic  
mechanisms for  
displacing us in  
possibility space

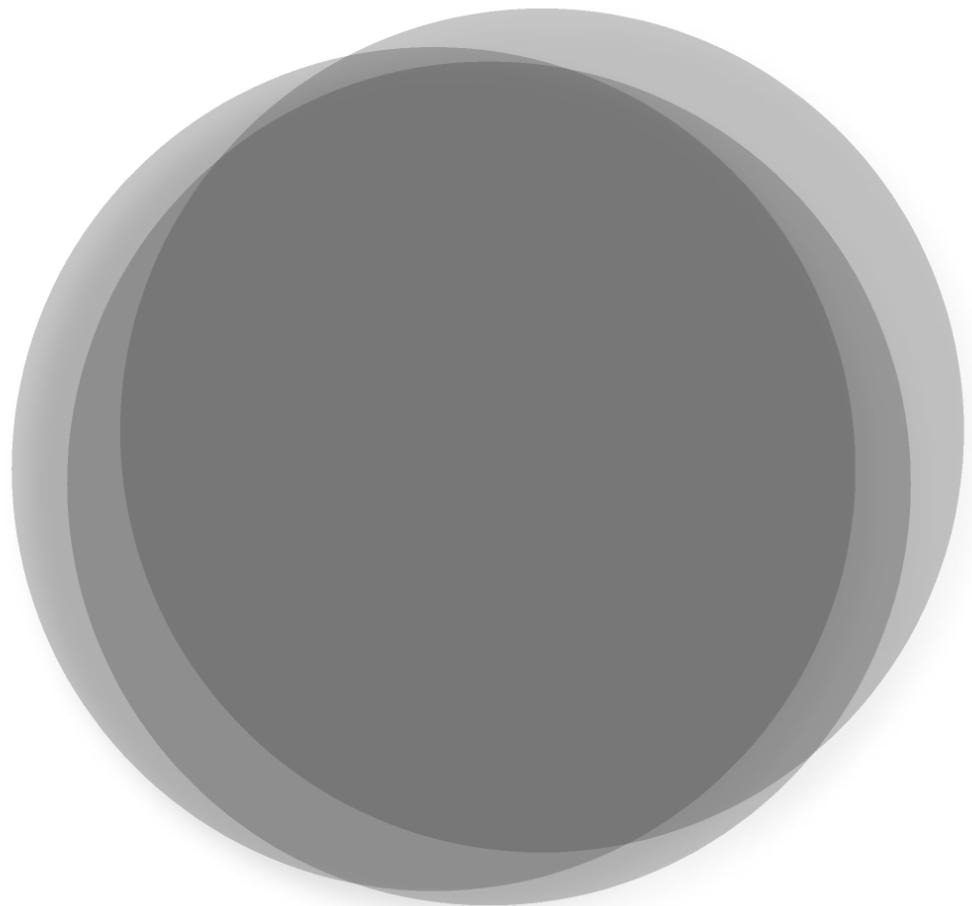
3  
the negative  
existential cycle

2  
discourse  
anaphoric  
*otherwise*

1  
apprehensional  
*bambai*

4  
Yolŋu mood





# four essays on irreality

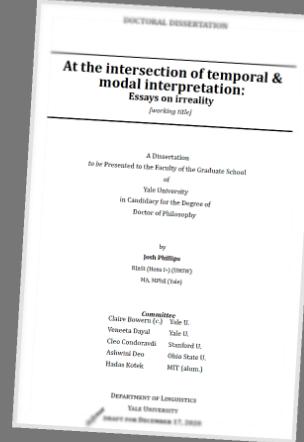
or rather on linguistic  
mechanisms for  
displacing us in  
possibility space

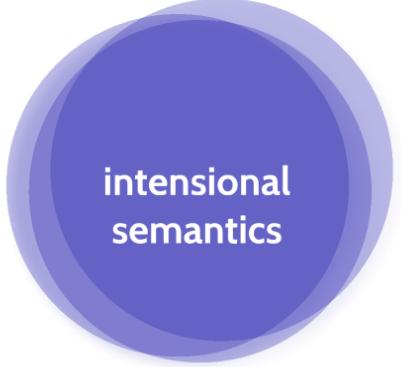
3  
the negative  
existential cycle

2  
discourse  
anaphoric  
*otherwise*

1  
apprehensional  
*bambai*

4  
Yolŋu mood





intensional  
semantics



essays on  
irreality

**at the intersection of temporal & modal interpretation**

dissertation defense — 21 dec. 2020