

Centering Theory

Private Investigator’s Findings

Karan Praharaj

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As the Private Investigator (PI), we dug up some background information on the first author of the paper [1], Barbara Grosz.

Barbara Grosz is currently a research professor at Harvard University. She was responsible for Harvard being of the first universities to integrate philosophy across different Computer Science courses. More famously, she created the first computational model of discourse [2], which in turn spawned an entire field of its own. She completed her Bachelors in Mathematics at Cornell University in 1969, and followed it up with a Master’s degree (1971), and then a PhD (1977) in Computer Science at the University of California at Berkeley. Grosz was also felicitated with the *Research Excellence Award* by the International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence in Buenos Aires for her pioneering work in multi-agent systems and natural language processing.

The Centering paper discussed this week is not the first work where the notion of centering has been discussed. In fact, this concept has been presented in other papers that came before (ones in which Grosz was one of the authors) [3, 4]. A lot of work has been done in the same space by Aravind K Joshi (the third author) [5, 6]

References

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- [3] B. J. Grosz, A. K. Joshi, and S. Weinstein, “Providing a unified account of definite noun phrases in discourse,” in *21st Annual Meeting of the Association for Computational Linguistics*, (Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA), pp. 44–50, Association for Computational Linguistics, June 1983.
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- [5] A. K. Joshi and S. Weinstein, “Control of inference: Role of some aspects of discourse structure-centering,” in *IJCAI*, pp. 385–387, 1981.

- [6] M. A. Walker, A. K. Joshi, and E. F. Prince, “Centering in naturally-occurring discourse: An overview,” *Centering in discourse Walker et al*, 1997.