

# Getting high: scope, projection, and evaluation order<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> 24.979: Topics in semantics

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“The seminar will provide a venue for discussing various mechanisms for scope-taking and projection, taking as our starting point continuations – a perspective on scope-taking developed by Chris Barker and Chung-chieh Shan. We will attempt to develop a solid working knowledge of the relevant mechanics, as well as arrive at a comprehensive empirical assessment of their advantages and drawbacks in selected areas of application. These will include quantifier scope, variable binding, cross-over, and presupposition projection, paying particular attention to linearity effects which continuations are designed to handle in a principled manner.”

## 1 Tentative schedule

**Thursdays 14:00-17:00, 32-D461**

The first few weeks are fairly stable, but later weeks will probably shift.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Note, Patrick is down as teaching *crossover* *i*, but will be at a conference that week, so this session will need to be rescheduled. We'll be in touch about that soon.

| date  | content                                 | lecturer |
|-------|---|----------|
| today | continuations i                         | Patrick  |
| 02.13 | continuations ii                        | Patrick  |
| 02.20 | the view from QR i                      | Martin   |
| 02.27 | the view from QR ii                     | Martin   |
| 03.05 | crossover i (Shan & Barker 2006)        | Patrick  |
| 03.12 | crossover ii (Chierchia, to appear)     | Martin   |
| 03.19 | presupposition as scope (Grove 2019)    | Patrick  |
| 04.02 | Haddock's puzzle (Bumford 2017)         | Martin   |
| 04.09 | TBA                                     | Patrick  |
| 04.16 | presupposition and reference resolution | Martin   |
| 04.23 | TBA                                     | TBA      |
| 04.30 | <i>student presentations</i>            | N/A      |
| 05.07 | <i>student presentations</i>            | N/A      |

## 2 *Requirements*

### 2.1 *General*

Students should attend and participate (obviously!). There will also be occasional homework assignments, consisting of either (i) a p-set, or (ii) submitting questions on an assigned reading. These will usually be due back the day before the following class.

### 2.2 *Student presentations*

For the registered students, we expect two things:

- A presentation in class.
- Eventually, a term paper.

We've blocked out the final two weeks of the seminar for student presentations, but this is mutable. The presentation may take one of two forms: (a) leading discussion of a paper relevant to the term paper topic,<sup>5</sup> (b) presentation of WiP ideas that will eventually take the form of a term paper. Just to emphasise, we don't expect the latter kind of presentation to be especially polished or complete. Something more exploratory is fine. Given that there are four registered students, each presentation should be around one hour long.

<sup>5</sup> If you decide on this option, it may be desirable for you to present earlier in the semester, especially if the paper you'd like to discuss overlaps significantly with a topic we plan to discuss. If you'd be interested in doing this, please let us know.

Leading up to the presentations, we'll be in touch with registered students to arrange semi-regular meetings.

## 3 *Readings*

The beginnings of a bibliography for this seminar:<sup>6</sup>

<sup>6</sup> Note: readings aren't necessary until assigned. If you have any suggestions for papers on related topics we should look at, please let us know! You can shape the future of the seminar!!

### 3.1 *Scope*

- Chris Barker. 2002. Continuations and the Nature of Quantification. *Natural Language Semantics* 10(3). 211–242

- Chris Barker & Chung-chieh Shan. 2014. *Continuations and natural language* (Oxford studies in theoretical linguistics 53). Oxford University Press. 228 pp.
- Simon Charlow. 2014. *On the semantics of exceptional scope*
- Chung-chieh Shan. 2002. A continuation semantics for interrogatives that accounts for Baker's ambiguity. In Brendan Jackson (ed.), *Salt xii*, 246–265. Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Linguistic Society of America

### 3.2 *Crossover*

- Chung-Chieh Shan & Chris Barker. 2006. Explaining Crossover and Superiority as Left-to-right Evaluation. *Linguistics & Philosophy* 29(1). 91–134
- Chris Barker & Chung-chieh Shan. 2008. Donkey anaphora is in-scope binding. *Semantics and Pragmatics* 1
- Chierchia, Gennaro. to appear. The origins of weak crossover: when dynamic semantics meets event semantics. *Natural Language Semantics*.

### 3.3 *Haddock's puzzle and presupposition*

- Dylan Bumford. 2017. Split-scope definites: Relative superlatives and haddock descriptions. *Linguistics and Philosophy* (40). 549–593
- Champollion, Lucas and Sauerland, Uli. 2010. Move and accommodate: a solution to Haddock's puzzle. *Empirical issues in syntax and semantics* 8.
- Julian Grove. 2019. *Scope-taking and presupposition satisfaction*. University of Chicago dissertation